FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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1 September Middle East and South Asia Review

LD011334 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi warplanes attacked three large maritime targets in a 12-hour period, one in the tanker holding area east of Khark Island and two others near the Iranian coast, according to statements aired by Voice of the Masses radio 1 September. A communique broadcast by the radio also announced that air strikes were carried out on the Mobarakeh iron and steel plant and a power station near Esfahan, the Marun and Ramhormoz oil fields, and a sugar plant in Shushtar. Tehran radio acknowledged that the Iraqis hit targets in Khuzestan and Esfahan, causing damage and some civilian casualties. Air defense units in Khuzestan downed a enemy plane, the radio said. Furthermore, the radio reported that Iranian pilots engaged two Mirage jets over the Gulf, adding that one was shot down and the other flew away in flames.

For Iran's part, a military communique cited by Tehran radio announced that enemy forces east of Al-'Amarah were "heavily bombed" 1 September. The War Information Headquarters also broadcast a warning that civilians living near potential targets should evacuate or risk being hit by Iran's "retaliatory fire." In remarks cited by IRNA, a "ranking military commander" had previously announced that Iran would cease its reprisal shelling of targets near Al-Basrah and other "key" cities unless Iraq continues its "acts of mischief."

IRNA reported that long-range artillery shelled military and industrial targets in the southern sector, including the Al-Zubayr oil installations, the Al-Harithah power station, and various sites near Al-Basrah and Umm Qasr. Supply routes in the area were bombarded, the agency said. According to a communique reported by IRNA, Iranian warplanes inflicted "substantial losses" on targets in Dukan, Irbil Province. The communique also noted that an Iraqi warplane plunged into Lake Orumiyeh, western Azarbayjan, after being hit by antiaircraft fire.

In the area of diplomacy, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Iran is prepared for "all-out cooperation" with the UN Security Council if only the Council will focus on "condemning the aggressor," IRNA reported. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, who recently returned from a mission abroad, reiterated that the UN Security Council's "naming the aggressor" would be a "major stride" toward establishing peace in the region, the agency noted. Larijani also said that Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i is planning to announce "something quite fresh and important" during his address to the UN General Assembly.

Libya-Chad

In a communique carried by Tripoli radio, the Libyan Armed Forces announced the cessation of air raids against "Chadian territory" on the occasion of the anniversary of the 1 September Revolution. The communique stipulated that air strikes would be resumed if the Chadian side was seen to "benefit militarily." According to Ndjamena radio, Libyan warplanes continued their "intensive and blind bombings" of Wour, Bardai, Ounianga Kebir, Faya-Largeau, Zour, Yebbi Bou, and Gouro.

Almost 1,500 Libyan soldiers were killed, some 300 wounded, and more than 200 captured, according to a Ndjamena radio commentary which reaffirmed that Chadian forces are still holding their positions around Aozou. The so-called victory touted by Tripoli was only the destruction of an "undefended post" in northern Aozou, the station declared, stressing that FANT is determined to "crush the Libyan expansionists."

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is holding consultations on the possibility of a second Cabinet vote on the Lavi project, IDF radio reported, adding that Minister Moshe Arens has postponed tendering his resignation pending the outcome the discussions.

In an interview with Jerusalem television, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin declared that the issue of the Cabinet reconsidering the question is "fuel on the fire." He stressed that the government decision on the Lavi will not compromise Israel's security, and he urged officials to concentrate on implementing the Cabinet resolution with "as little pain as possible." The minister envisioned a maximum of 2,000-3,000 dismissals at Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) "in the foreseeable future."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres reaffirmed to IDF radio his view that the Cabinet decision is the best solution to IAI's long- and short-term problems. Cabinet reconsideration of the issue is "unprecedented" and might create "new norms" in decision-making, Peres warned. Pointing to the fact that the Lavi has a U.S. engine and wings, he urged the aviation industry to reorient its planning to embrace the concept of cooperative production.

Lebanon

An IDF soldier was "slightly wounded" when a roadside bomb exploded near Bint Jubayl 1 September, Jerusalem radio reported.

Algeria

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of defense and aviation, ended a week-long visit during which he conferred with President Chadli Bendjedid and other high officials, according to a "press statement" carried by SPA. The two sides committed themselves to strengthening and consolidating bilateral relations as well as to implementing their policy on "clarifying the Arab atmosphere." The Saudi defense minister then traveled to Rabat where he was welcomed by Moroccan Prime Minister Assedine Laraki, Rabat radio reported.

President Bendjedid received Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil for talks on developments in Lebanon, APS reported, adding that, after a "short visit," Al-Jumayyil departed for Paris.

Tunisia

On the eve of a trial of 90 members of the Islamic Tendency Movement, Muslim fundamentalists mounted a demonstration in Tunis, Paris radio reported, adding that police quickly dispersed the protesters.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Says GCC To Meet 12 Sep

LD311837 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Shaykh Sabih al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the GCC Ministerial Council will hold a meeting in Riyadh on 12 September. In a statement to journalists today reported by KUNA, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad described the meeting as periodical, during which all regional and Arab developments will be discussed. He said the date of the meeting has been moved forward by a few days due to circumstances and to avoid conflicting with other Arab meetings. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Official Denies Arab League Early Session

LD010947 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0831 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Sep (KUNA) — A Foreign Ministry official has categorically denied here today reports that the Arab League emergency session will be held ahead of schedule. The official reaffirmed to KUNA what was reported by some local newspapers regarding the statement by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the resumption of the Arab League emergency session and Kuwait's eagerness to convene the session by the deadline date, which is 20 September. He also said the meeting will take place at Arab League Headquarters in Tunis. This is in compliance with a resolution issued at the end of the last session in Tunis.

Jordan's Al-Khatib Addresses Tunis Arab Meeting

JN281641 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Tunis — Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib has noted the importance of dealing with Arab issues within a joint perspective. This perspective should be agreed upon by the Arab information ministers during special sessions to draw up a pan-Arab concept of action in the international arena. Al-Khatib addressed the final session of the 22d Conference of Arab Information Ministers Council last night. He said the Council should distinguish between the mass media which deal with the domestic achievements of a country on the one hand and the mass media which deal with foreign issues and which must adopt an overall pan-Arab position on the other. He said this pan-Arab position must be adopted so that our mass media can interact with Arab causes in the international arenas and can confront the deceptive Zionist mass media.

Al-Khatib added: In the absence of a unified position on our causes, the Zionist mass media were able to win over the international arena. They were able to deceive world public opinion and depict the Arab nation's struggle as a kind of terrorism. He also said: We should prove we are a nation with a genuine culture. He stressed the need to continue efforts to denounce all forms of terrorism and to distinguish between terrorism and the right of nations to resist the occupation of their territories.

Al-Khatib called for reactivating the Arab League's information offices abroad as a necessary means of supporting the Arab presence in international arenas. He affirmed the need for the Council's committee to hold a meeting to discuss ways to reactivate the work of these offices and said the Council's committee should also draw up future programs in accordance with an objective and careful study of foreign countries' positions on the just Arab causes. He added: We in Jordan feel it is important to confront the Israeli domestic mass media to support the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories and to expose the occupation's unjust practices.

Mabrouk on Tunis Meeting's 'Unannounced' Decisions

JN290933 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 29 Aug (WAKH) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk has said that the Arab foreign ministers council, which convened in Tunis recently, has made unannounced specific decisions. Abu Dhabi-based *Al-Ittihad* cited Mabrouk as saying the meeting was a complete success and that this was the first time all Arab foreign minsiters, except those of Lebanon and Libya, have met and made unannounced specific decisions. If these decisions were announced, some people would believe the results of the meeting were negative because many positive points were not announced. Mabrouk refused to disclose the nature of these secret decisions of the Arab foreign ministers.

Sofia Paper on Interview With Fatah Official
AU311024 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Aug 87 p 4

[Interview with Yahya Habash, general secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and member of the PLO Central Council, by Georgi Stefanov; date and place not given]

[Text] A PLO delegation recently visited our country. It was led by Yahya Saqr Habash (Abu Nizar), general secretary of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and member of the PLO Revolutionary Council. Yahya Habash readily answered some questions pertaining to topical issues concerning the Palestinian Liberation Movement, asked exclusively for the *Rabotnichesko Delo* readers, by Georgi Stefanov, member of our editorial staff:

[Stefanov] Numerous politicians today think that we are nearing an international Middle East peace conference. Is the PLO ready to participate in such a conference?

[Habash] All efforts of American imperialism to eliminate the Palestinian problem and the PLO have ended in failure. If we can talk about increased opportunities of convening a Middle East conference, it can be done solely in the context of the restored PLO unity achieved as a result of the 18th session of the PLO National Council in Algiers. This was a necessary prerequisite for participating in such a conference, since the PLO is the only legally authorized organization able to represent all the Palestinian people. In this context the 18th session of the PLO National Council confirmed that the PLO is a broad united front of our entire people, and that to be a PLO member means to be a member of the Palestinian nation. The PLO is the spiritual homeland of all Palestinians.

The PLO has always supported the proposal of the Soviet Union on convening an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all interested sides, including the PLO — the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

This constructive initiative is stubbornly obstructed by the Zionists and Americans, which either reject the proposal, or are trying to deprive it of its genuine meaning — namely to prevent the conference from being authorized to adopt decisions and to transform it into a cover for direct and separatist negotiations between Israel and certain Arab states.

We can confidently state that we are far from the American and Israeli ideas about an international conference, today, and that we are in favor of convening the type of conference as proposed by the USSR. The PLO is more than ever ready to participate in this conference. The conference must be authorized to adopt decisions, to be a judge, and a legally authorized forum, and not a cover for deceiving world public opinion and for direct negotiations between Israel and certain Arab states.

It is appropriate to point out in this connection that now, following the achievement of PLO unity, a necessary prerequisite for the success of the conference is to achieve an all-Arab political unity of action. The Algiers session gave the PLO the opportunity to establish sound and sincere relations with all Arab countries, and in particular, with the main cogs of the peace process in the Middle East — such as Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.

[Stefanov] How was the unity of the different PLO groups achieved, in view of the former differences of opinions existing among them?

[Habash] The basic factor which helped us to achieve all-Palestinian unity at the 18th PLO National Council session in Algiers was the joint struggle of all Palestinian organizations against the Zionist enemy and against imperialism. The session was the glorious climax of a long struggle waged by the Palestinian people for self-determination and for their right to establish their own, independent state.

Certain Palestinian groups did not attend the session — such as Al-Sa'iqah, the PFLP General Command, and the Abu Nidal group, which is responsible for a series of terrorist actions — which undermine the prestige of the PLO. Despite the fact that Abu Nidal changed his policy and participated in the dialogue preceeding the session, a dialogue which practically sealed the unity, his participation in the session itself was considered inexpedient, as long as he has not genuinely proven his loyalty to the ideas proclaimed by the session.

It is particularly important to stress that PLO unity was achieved on the basis of the cancellation of the 1985 Amman agreement, which questioned the right of the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

There is even more: The door of the PLO is open to all national forces, which are manifesting an unmistakable and constructive line of policy. It is our wish that no Palestinian fighter should remain outside the PLO, that he should be excluded from the joint struggle.

[Stefanov] How do you evaluate the policy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and of the other socialist countries on Middle East problems?

[Habash] The Palestinian people have always considered the USSR, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and the other socialist countries as reliable allies in their struggle for national self-determination and for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The policy of the socialist countries is aimed at the establishment of lasting peace in the Middle East through a just solution of the Middle East problem, through a political settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict, and through the normalization of the situation in Lebanon, by preserving the independence and territorial integrity of this country.

We greatly appreciate the peace-loving policy conducted by the People's Republic of Bulgaria, aimed at transforming the Balkans into a zone, free of nuclear and chemical weapons, and it is our aspiration that the Middle East should become such a zone of peace and security as well.

The experience of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and of the Fatherland Front in rallying the patriotic forces in your country on a broad national democratic basis in the struggle against fascism and imperialism — this experience and Georgi Dimitrov's ideas about united people's fronts are subjects of special research on our side. They were creatively applied in working out our concept for the restoration of PLO unity.

Fatah's Khalaf on Lebanon, Recent Assassinations
NC311330 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by Nasr al-Majali]

[Text] London — A senior Palestinian leader has said that the situation facing the Palestine national liberation movement "Fatah" in southern Lebanon is the work of parties hostile to the Palestinian revolution and the result of the siege of Palestinian camps. He added that rumors being circulated are merely a continuation of the conspiracy against our people. The source, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, made these statements by telephone to *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* from his headquarters in Tunis to clarify developments on the Palestinian scene following the assassination of "Force 17" leaders Lieutenant Colonel Rasim al-Ghul and, earlier, Hasan al-Haybah.

Asked about the attempted assassination of Palestinian leader Abu 'Ali Shahin 2 days ago and any link between Shahin's being summoned to Tunisia and Lt Col al-Ghul's assassination, Abu Iyad said there was an assassination attempt but emphatically denied reports circulated by Arab and foreign news agencies in Beirut that this attempt was connected with his refusal to go to Tunisia.

Abu Iyad noted that summoning Palestinian leaders in Lebanon to Tunisia is normal and frequent. He added: "However, we do not usually make such a summons public. When we summoned Abu 'Ali Shahin we did not intend to put him on trial in connection with Lt Col Rasim al-Ghul's assassination, as rumored by some news reports." Abu Iyad added: "Abu 'Ali Shahin is a stubborn fighter and has devoted himself to his people's and revolution's cause, spending 17 years in the occupation jails until he was deported. He enjoys the trust of the Palestinian leaders, particularly those of the Fatah command. In addition, he has great responsibilities in Lebanon. How could we summon him for trial? Such a notion is ridiculous. We emphatically deny it."

Khalaf added: We now have at the Fatah command the full details of the attempt to assassinate Abu 'Ali Shahin and we will discuss them at the Central Committee meeting which began in Tunis last night. He said: We have contacted him at his headquarters in southern Lebanon and he is currently in good condition. He has provided us with numerous details which we do not want to make public now.

The Palestinian official accused Fatah dissidents and Ahmad Jibril's PFLP-GC of instigating the campaign against Fatah leaders in southern Lebanon to shake the confidence of residents of the Palestinian camps, "who are besieged by the Zionist enemy and the Amal militias." Abu Iyad denied the Fatah command had summoned Jamal Sulayman, commander of the "'Ayn al-Hulwah Martyrs" Battalion, and a number of his aides to Tunisia to refer them to a revolutionary court on charges of assassinating Lt Col al-Ghul. He said such reports are amazing and said any [leadership] changes made are done in the interest of our people's struggle against the Zionist enemy to defend our sons in the camps. He also noted that such changes are normal and customary. Khalaf appealed to the Palestinian people in Lebanon to exercise great caution in responding to rumors and allegations made by parties hostile to the Palestinian people and their leaders.

Concluding his statement to *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, Abu Iyad said: "In any event, we are meeting in Tunis now to discuss various aspects of our situation and we emphasize to our people our desire to maintain unity as leaders and people. What is happening in Lebanon is neither a crisis nor a predicament, but rather normal circumstances through which any revolution can go."

He said: I would like to say that Abu 'Ali Shahin and his brother strugglers Rasim al-Ghul and Hasan al-Haybah are soldiers of the revolution. We respect their struggle and we wish to note that we are used to such acts of physical liquidation. Such evil is returning with its habitual dark face, but it will fail.

Lt Col al-Ghul was born in Jerusalem. He was 37 years old and his full name was Hilmi 'Abd al-Ghafur al-Ghul.

A Palestinian official in Amman has also denied that a death sentence was on Abu 'Ali Shahin or that he was accused of assassinating Al-Ghul.

In exclusive statements to *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, the Palestinian official asserted that a number of Fatah leaders in Lebanon were recently assassinated and that many attempted assassinations were foiled.

The Palestinian official accused the Israeli intelligence service of planning the assassination attempt against Abu 'Ali Shahin, who spent 16 years [as published] in occupation jails. The official added that during that time Abu 'Ali Shahin organized fighters from inside his Israeli prison and later published a book in which he exposed the Zionist methods of torturing Palestinian resistance fighters. Before leaving for Lebanon he was given responsibility for supervising the affairs of martyrs' families, the official said.

Iranian Oil Minister Calls For Price Cutbacks

LD282008 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., Aug. 28, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said today that OPEC will certainly not allow stability of the oil prices to be disturbed, which was achieved after great efforts of members.

Aqazadeh made the assertion during a televised press conference here where he referred to the violation by certain OPEC members of the OPEC assigned quotas and said some regional countries have mixed up oil issues with politicals [as received], thereby hurting interests of the other members through their profiteering.

He said he had talked to OPEC Chairman Rilwanu Lukman and called on him to immediately hold sessions of 'supervision on market' and 'production control' committees. We are presently awaiting efforts of these two committees, he added.

The only solution to this situation seems to be the immediate production cutdown by the members, said the minister noting that if this reduction does not take place, the market situation may get even worse. However, he expressed hope that the oil market situation would reach its previous stability within the next few days.

On oil projects and exploration operations Aqazadeh said the Oil Ministry has determined new exploration spots in a 20-year compiled plan by implementation of which, 15 billion to 20 billion more barrels of oil could be exploited.

Price, Production Committees Now To Meet 10 Sep

LD290816 Vienna OPECNA in English 1125 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Vienna, 28 Aug. 87 (OPECNA) — The two OPEC ministerial committees set up at the last conference meeting of the organization in June are now to meet here on Thursday, 10 September. An official of the OPEC secretariat told OPECNA this afternoon that the new date has been agreed upon, replacing 7 September announced earlier this week. [passage omitted]

Nigeria's Rawlings, OAU Official Arrive on Visit

LD292203 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Ghana's Captain Jerry Rawlings [title as heard], chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, arrived in Algeria today on an official visit.

OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou also arrived in Algeria this afternoon on an official visit.

Bendjedid Receives Rawlings

LD292250 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Algerian-Ghanaian political talks were held this evening at the Djenan el Mithak residence between President Chadli Bendjedid and Captain Jerry Rawlings [title as heard], the Ghanaian president. The Algerian minister of foreign affairs and transport and the director of the presidency, the Ghanaian prime minister, and the two Ghanaian ministers of state for the Provisional Committee for National Defense attended the talks. The head of state hosted a dinner banquet in honor of President Rawlings.

Rawlings Makes Departing Statement

LD302154 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers remains the center of high level inter-African cooperation. Following a 24-hour working visit during which he held talks with President Bendjedid, President Jerry Rawlings left Algiers this afternoon. In his statement to the press, the Ghanaian head of state expressed his satisfaction at the convergence of views which emerged during these talks. He said that the development of bilateral relations and the (?tasks) of development cannot be achieved separately, [words indistinct]. His decision to go to Tripoli is noteworthy. He said that border disputes which serve the interests of the superpowers must be avoided.

During the Algerian-Ghanaian political talks great attention was paid to the Chad-Libya dispute. The two sides stressed that recourse to arms is not the best solution. The OAU resolutions constitute an adequate framework for a solution.

Bendjedid Sees Off Rawlings

LD301605 Algiers APS in Arabic 1425 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 30 Aug (APS) — Captain Jerry Rawlings [title as received], Ghanaian president and chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, left Algiers this afternoon at the end of a working visit to our country. Capt Rawlings was seen off byChadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN, who was accompanied by members of the Political Bureau.

Ibrahimi Meets With OAU's Oumarou

LD301950 Algiers APS in Arabic 1421 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 30 Aug (APS) — Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and foreign minister, held lengthy talks with OAU Secretary General Oumarou, who is currently visiting Algeria.

Mohamed Rouighi, minister of hydraulics, environment and forests, also attended the talks. The two sides exchanged views and information on a number of current African issues and prospects of implementing the OAU resolution on these issues.

In this context Dr Taleb Ibrahimi and Ide Oumarou studied the prevailing situation in southern Africa in light of the national liberation struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples. They also discussed the measures adopted by the 23d OAU summit aimed at supporting the capabilities of the resistance struggle of southern African liberation movements and Frontline states, as well as lobbying the UN to impose compulsory and comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime.

The two sides also discussed the Chadian-Libyan border dispute and the prospects of a peaceful settlement in line with resolution adopted by the 23d conference of African heads of state and government on this issue.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi and Ide Oumarou also reviewed the preparations made for the emergency conference of African heads of state and government concerning African debts and the necessary steps to implement the plan to revitalize Africa's economy.

Chadian Envoy Delivers Habre Message to Bendjedid

LD292053 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] The head of state this afternoon received Korom Ahmed, Chadian minister delegate to the Presidency for general inspectorate and state control. Mr Ahmed conveyed a message from Hissein Habre, Chadian head of state, to President Chadli Bendjedid.

Brahimi Sees Off Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil 31 Aug

LD311207 Algiers APS in English 1024 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Algiers, 31/8/87 (APS) — The Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyil left Algiers on Monday at the end of a short visit in Algeria. He was seen off at his departure by Abdelhamid Brahimi, supply member of the Political Bureau and prime minister.

It is worth recalling that the Lebanese president arrived yesterday here where he had talks with President Chadli Bendjedid.

Libyan Forces Continue Air, Ground Actions

Libya Bombs Positions 31 Aug

AB312012 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] The Libyans are continuing their intensive bombardment of northern Chad. The FANT High Command says the towns of Ounianga Kebir in the Borkou region and Wour in the Tibesti region have been under bombardment since 0600. This bombing continued until the early part of the afternoon. The Libyan raids have now become the daily affliction of the northern part of our country.

These intensive and blind bombings are not aimed at military targets. [Words indistinct] the Libyans have poured several tons of bombs on our innocent civilian population [words indistinct] women and children are particularly targeted by the bombing of the Libyan aircraft, thus inplementing the plan of the fascist Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who, for a long time, has had a diabolical plan to exterminate Chadians and annex their territory.

Yesterday, several towns in Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti [BET] Prefecture suffered from intensive bombing by the Libyan Air Force. Wour, Bardai, Ounianga Kebir, and Faya-Largeau in the the morning [words indistinct] in the capital of the BET, Faya-Largeau, the towns of Zour and Yebbi Bou in the afternoon. BET Prefecture has faced, since the brave FANT's liberation of the administrative center of Aozou, heavy bombing by the Libyan Air Force. In this way, the torturer of Tripoli thinks that by [words indinstinct] a prefecture plunged into fire and blood by the Libyan Army. In spite of the gravity of the situation, the FANT continue to wipe out all traces of the Libyans on Chadian territory.

A few weeks ago, after the FANT's multiple victories, a veritable campaign — a negative campaign — was launched against Chad, especially against the heroism of our forces on the battlefield. The FANT, which have pledged to defend the integrity of the national character, are not in the least (?discouraged) by the numerous Libyan allegations blindly echoed by the foreign media. Whatever people say or do, the Chadian people, the Chadian Government, and the FANT are resolutely mobilized and committed to restoring to their country its territorial integrity by any means possible. This mobilization and commitment are reflected in the messages of support and congratulations addressed to the head of state and the FANT by Chadians both at home and abroad.

Gouro Reported Bombed 31 Aug

AB312149 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] We have just learned that the town of Gouro has been the target of Libyan bombing this afternoon. The town of Gouro was the target of Libyan bombing this afternoon.

'Part' of Aozou Taken by Libya

AB312234 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The alleged Libyan military victory in Aozou, which was announced with so much publicity, does not deceive even the Libyans themselves. This was excessive publicity intended for domestic consumption and aimed at giving some significance to the 1 September [Libyan] celebration, for this will be a particularly mournful occasion as people remember the several thousand Libyans who lost their lives in the sands of the Chadian desert or who were captured by the FANT.

In fact, what Tripoli is seriously referring to as a victory is only the destruction of an undefended post, located in the northern part of the town. What Tripoli refers to as a victory is the occupation of a part of that town where our troops had never posted themselves, for obvious security reasons. However, the FANT are still holding their initial positions around Aozou, which explains why fighting continued until yesterday and why the Libyan Air Force continued its bombing of that area. It is not by capturing one position and occupying one part of the town of Aozou that Libya will gain control of the entire area. [passage indistinct]

This partial success is very insignificant compared to the great disaster suffered by the Libyan Army in our country. Nearly 1,500 soldiers were killed, some 300 others wounded, and more than 200 were taken prisoner during the last three battles alone. [passage indistinct] However, a war has its ups and downs and the Chadian people are confident that the FANT will definitely crush the Libyan expansionists. Therefore, the Libyan regime has shouted victory too soon. [passage indistinct]

AFP on Libyan Hold on Aozou

AB311701 Paris AFP in French 1526 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Paris, 31 Aug (AFP) — Three days after Libya announced that it had recaptured the town of Aozou, in the extreme north of Chad, the Chadian authorities once again asserted, on 31 August, that Ndjamena's troops are still holding some positions around the oasis. This information has been confirmed by French sources in Paris. These informed sources prefer to speak of a "partial victory" by Libya at Aozou rather than a total recapture of that town.

The same circles have put the number of Chadian casualties at about 100. A large quantity of materiel was also destroyed or abandoned. The Air Force, they added, played a major role in the Libyan offensive. According to these same sources, the proximity of the Libyan base of Aozou (which the Chadians call Tanoa), about 80 km north of the village, was a definite advantage for the Libyans whose aircraft were able to make repeated passes over the battlefield. [passage omitted]

'Strong Protest' to Arab Statement at UN Lodged

AB011004 Paris AFP in French 0758 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] New York (United Nations), 1 Sep (AFP) — Chad has lodged a "strong protest" to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi following the statement he made a few days ago acknowledging Libya's sovereignty over the Aozou Strip. In the protest memorandum published yesterday at the United Nations, Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou stated that Mr Klibi's "partisan" position reflected both his "contempt for the cause of Chad's martyred people" and his lack of "respect for black Africa in general."

Such statements are not conducive to fostering the "reactivation of Afro-Arab cooperation, as the OAU secretary general is attempting to do but without much assistance from his Arab League counterpart," Mr Gouara Lassou added. He described Mr Klibi's attitude as "irresponsible and unfriendly toward Chad in particular and black Africa in general," and reserved the right to bring up the matter within the OAU during discussions on Afro-Arab cooperation.

Kuwaiti Information Minister Arrives 29 Aug

LD292139 Kuwait KUNA in English 1942 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Ndjamena, Aug 29 (KUNA) — Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Jabir, Kuwait's information minister and envoy of H.H. the amir arrived here today on an official visit to Chad.

Shaykh Nasir was received by Minister of Planning and Cooperation and Acting Foreign Minister Mahamat Soumaila and Minister of Education, Acting Information Minister Mahamat Nour Mallaye, Presidential Secretary Ahmed Karim and other high-ranking officials.

The Kuwaiti minister was accorded an official welcome following which he proceeded to guest palace.

Chad is the last leg of Shaykh Nasir's seven-nation tour which started last Monday [24 August].

Shaykh Nasir delivered messages from the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad to leaders of African countries relating to latest Gulf developments and the perils inherent in continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, in his capacity as president of the present session of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Received by President Habre

AB301552 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Sabah, who arrived in Ndjamena yesterday afternoon, was received this morning at 1100 by the president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre, to whom he delivered a message from the amir of Kuwait, Al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. The audience took place in the presence of Mahamat Soumaila, minister delegate for planning and acting foreign minister. Also present was Mahamat Nour Mallaye, the minister of education who is additionally acting minister for information and civic orientation. The talks between President Habre and the Kuwaiti minister lasted about 1 hour. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Defense Minister Discusses Gulf War
JN301108 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
28 Aug 87 pp 4-11

[Interview with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and production, by editor in chief Makram Muhammad Ahmad; place, date not given]

[Text] [Ahmad] Do you not believe that the present intensive military presence in the Gulf area could bring about dangers with repercusions that will be difficult to forestall? Do you believe that the present military situation in the region can lead to a clash between the two superpowers?

[Abu Ghazalah] Honestly speaking, I do not expect a clash between the two superpowers. In all the international crises that occur around the globe, such crises reach a critical stage. Then the two superpowers see that it is necessary to reach a solution so that the crisis will ease, for the alternative is a nuclear war, which neither party wants. The superpowers fully realize that a clash — even if it is small at first — could grow and develop, and its repercussions could escalate and lead to a global confrontation. What is happening in the Gulf now is a kind of massing of forces and escalation of tension, a self-assertion, and the creation of favorable conditions to help each party strengthen its influence and interests. Ultimately, the two sides will come together to find a solution. However, a confrontation is not expected.

What you should also know is that there are spheres of influence that the two sides have agreed upon, spheres that have been defined with each side agreeing to respect the interests of the other. Even when there is some form of intervention, it is no more than a kind of self-assertion — as though each side were saying to the other: I am here.

If one should look at the map of the conflict, he will find that the United States is helping the Afghan mujahidin, despite the agreement between the two giants that the area is closed to direct intervention by the United States, which recognizes vital Soviet interests in Afghanistan. Perhaps one of the reasons for the Soviet presence in the Gulf is that such a presence is intended as a message to Washington to desist from helping the Afghan mujahidin. Thus we find that direct intervention in certain spheres of influence is prohibited. However, that does not prevent either side from exerting pressure in the other side's sphere of influence to gain a useful advantage in a different area.

[Ahmad] There are areas that may have been clearly divided into spheres of influence, such as Afghanistan and the boundary separating Eastern and Western Europe. However, we believe that the Arabian Gulf and the Middle East are among the areas that are still open to conflict. The two superpowers have perhaps not yet agreed on the limits of their relationship in the area. Consequently, can the danger of polarization bring about a long period of instability in the region?

[Abu Ghazalah] Undoubtedly, that is a fact. Military alliances have demarcated the boundaries and areas of conflicts. The Warsaw Pact countries know their limit well, and the same goes for the NATO countries. If there is an escalation of tension in an area whose boundaries are known, the two sides hasten to talk to each other to find a solution that rearranges matters in a manner that does not radically affect the balance of their interests. However, what is happening in the Gulf and the Middle East is another matter. The two sides have not yet reached a state of balanced interests or arranged an agreement in the region. That is the reason for the tension in the region and the existence of problems on the limits that must not be crossed. I believe the situation will remain as it is until the two superpowers reach an agreement that arranges their interests. It is regrettable that there should be an agreement on arranging interests in the absence of an Arab will and Arab strength.

[Ahmad] In light of the current situation in the region, what do the Americans and Soviets want from the Gulf region and the Middle East?

[Abu Ghazalah] What is taking place in the region primarily reflects a struggle of interests, not ideologies.

The ideologies have fallen from their pedestal. The best proof of this is the pragmatic revolution now led by Gorbachev in the USSR against rigid formulas. A new era of rapprochement on the basis of interests has begun. If a partial or full agreement over interests is reached between the two sides, matters will stabilize and the situation will calm down even if it is at the expense of others. Conversely, if interests continue to clash, matters will not stabilize.

If we look at the United States and what it wants and also where its interests in the region lie, we find that first there is an American interest in the continued flow of oil at the prices it wants. The United States wants to guarantee that the flow will continue until a radical solution is found to the energy problem.

I believe that the region's problems will probably continue until the Western world finds this radical solution, which will make it no longer captive to energy imported from outside its borders.

Fearing unilateral control, each side will attempt to have a final say in the affairs of the region by expanding the circle of its influence and friends and rearranging its cards.

If we look at who is helping whom and what he wants, it will become clear to us that the USSR is trying hard to build a security cordon, beginning with Afghanistan, so it can reach the Arab Gulf region after it has established an effective presence in Bab el Mandeb and also in several African countries. The USSR's objective is to share control of the waterways and sea routes that govern the flow of oil, energy, and international trade. By doing so, it will be in a position to impose its will and to achieve what it wants when it come to sharing zones of influence.

This concept must also be viewed from attempts being made to establish small entities, such as Baluchistan for the Baluchis and Kurdistan for the Kurds in northern Iraq, western Iran, and eastern Turkey. The purpose of all these plans is to penetrate the security belt that the Americans have set up around the Soviet Union.

The whole idea, therefore, is to attempt to control navigational routes and strategic communication lines governing the oil flow and international trade. The fleets moving everywhere require ports and facilities. In the Atlantic, the American NATO power is faced by a Soviet fleet. In the Red Sea, we find the 6th Fleet confronted by the Soviet Black Sea Fleet. In the Indian Ocean, there is the U.S. 7th Fleet facing the Soviet fleet. In the Pacific Ocean, there is also a naval confrontation between the two superpowers.

All these fleets are constantly on the move because they are less exposed to danger than land bases. These naval reinforcements require facilities, supplies, and sea routes. If we glance at the map, we will find that the most dangerous facility areas in the world are the Gulf region and the Middle East. For the 6th Fleet or the Soviet Navy to sail from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, its ships must pass through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and Bab el Mandeb. And, for any side to sail from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, it has to pass through the Strait of Gibraltar. Moreover, for anyone to sail from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, he has to pass through the Strait of Malacca. All these sea routes, which are of a strategic nature, exist in this region, which is now witnessing a struggle between the superpowers.

[Ahmad] Your Excellency, the field marshal, but it has been noticed that the intensive naval presence in the Gulf area took place at the request of some local parties. The local parties sought to attract these naval reinforcements in the hope that internationalization will help end a war threatening the security of the Gulf and its countries.

[Abu Ghazalah] The presence was there before the request of the local parties. This is because the issue is related to an important waterway for energy supplies. Fleets, bases, and facilities existed before the Kuwaiti request on Diego Garcia and Masirah Islands. The eyes of the West and the East have been wide open to what going on in the Gulf area for a long time. Therefore, the Kuwaiti request did not change the nature of the presence, but increased its volume.

[Ahmad] What U.S. reaction do you expect if the U.S. fleet were subjected to any adventure by Iran? How would the Americans, who have been insulted more than once by Tehran, react if the Iranians carry out a reckless act?

[Abu Ghazalah] I do not expect any Iranian attack on U.S. ships. I greatly doubt an Iranian missile attack against a U.S. ship or even a ship flying a British or French flag because such an action would give the United States the right to strike at Iran, in view of the world, in a calculated and limited reaction to aggression without escalating matters to a state of war.

I also do not expect U.S. ships to attack the Iranian boats in the Gulf. Despite the media clamor, the two sides are still maintaining some relationship.

Until now, we have not heard that Iranian missiles have hit French, British, or U.S. ships. The Iranians are not that stupid — unless the Tehran rulers have completely lost control of matters. Moreover, I believe that Tehran will not fire any of its missiles on navigation in the Strait of Hormuz to close it because it has a great interest in the continous flow of its oil through the strait.

Iranian activity will continue to be confined to planting sea mines, for which Tehran can deny responsibility when they explode, or firing missiles on non-American commercial ships as happened with a Liberian tanker recently.

[Ahmad] Therefore, in all cases the U.S. response will be restricted by considerations of the U.S. strategy, which still appreciates the danger of the Iranian role and its influence on the balance between the two superpowers in this region.

[Abu Ghazalah] Yes, Iran still has its special status in dhe West's strategy. The hearing committees on the scandal of U.S. arms to Iran revealed that when Washington thought of establishing a rapid deployment force, the decision to establish it — basically — was to intervene in Iran against the Soviet Union if it tries to swallow it. The Arab region or the Middle East was not among the motives behind this force. Hence Iran's strategic weight and importance in U.S. strategic calculations becomes clear. The United States will not relinquish Iran to the other party. All U.S. moves in the region are calculated 100 percent.

I think that neither will Americans strike at Iran nor will Iran strike at the U.S. military forces.

The whole point is that all parties are now in a state of waiting and expectation. The escalation of matters is still governed by many restrictions and considerations.

[Ahmad] If the international sides are still in a wait-and-see-stage and if the intensification of relations between Tehran and Washington is calculated to such an extent that it imposes restrictions on the two sides preventing an outbreak of war or escalation, the Arabs in this equation will thus be the weakest side. Is this demonstrated by Iran's show of power against the Gulf countries?

[Abu Ghazalah] The current Iranian strategy is undoubtedly based on intimidating the Gulf countries to make them stop helping Iraq. If the Iranians regarded Kuwait as their first target, the recent Mecca events indicate clearly that Tehran wants its scheme to cover the Arab Peninsula and all the Gulf. The goal is to subject everybody to enough pressure and horror that they cannot support Iraq financially or morally. Iran believes that achieving this goal will certainly affect Iraq's military capability. This, moreover, will have internal effects on Iraq, particularly when it feels that it is alone in its battle against the Persians. Had this been achieved, Iraqi reactions would have been less decisive. Iran might ultimately achieve a kind of military balance with Iraq on the level of weapons and hardware so that it would be able to launch a successful offensive and occupy the city of Basra.

The Iranians tried to count on the population density to counterbalance Iraq's weapons and hardware capability, but they suffered a devastating defeat. Their human losses were enormous and terrible.

The current Iranian problem is that they do not have adeduate hardware and equipment. Balance is required in the qualitative and quantitative aspects. Had the Iranians succeeded in attaining this balance, they would have undoubtedly tried again to occupy Basra. I believe that the fall of Basra, God forbid, will yield grave and horrible consequences. The first will be that Tehran's dream will come true. Iraq will be eliminated or fragmented into three statelets. One will be around Basra covering Al-Najaf, Karbala', and the Shi'ite holy places. This statelet will follow a domineering Shi'ite system and will be totally under the Khomeyni influence. A Sunni statelet will exist in central Iraq, while the Kurds will probably have the chance to establish a statelet in the north. Iraq will thus disappear from map of the Iranian-Arab confrontation and the Persians' dream will come true.

Tehran's calculations also include a collapse of the Gulf countries. This may not need a war or confrontation. Some terrorist acts will be adequate to shake the security of these regimes and undermine them from within so that they will be replaced by regimes yielding to Khomeyni's authority without resorting to a military confrontation. Once Tehran achieves this, the Khomeyniite hegemony over the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula will become a fait accompli.

[Ahmad] To what extent is this Persian dream likely to come true?

[Abu Ghazalah] Certain conditions have to be met to achieve this scenario. The first is a qualitative combat and quantitative human balance between Iraq and Iran. Iran's possession of more human power than Iraq is not adequate to achieve victory unless it is associated with a quantitative combat factor — which is represented in a balance in weapons, hardware, and training, since Iraq is decisively superior in this field. I do not believe that Iran can fill this gap for 2 or 3 years, if it receives the needed weapons supplies.

The second condition is a coherent internal situation in Iran. Some experts and analysts say that what took place in Mecca was planned by Tehran to create a new issue to preoccupy the Iranian people, help create support for the Iranian leadership, and consequently avert fragmentation of the home front.

The third condition is the collapse of the Iraqi home front. This is what Tehran is looking forward to through its firm pressure on Iraq. Iran is always the side that launches the attacks while Iraq is always on the defensive. Iran tries by all means to halt financial aid to Iraq, so that Iraq will be forced to stop the still continuing development projects that alleviate the effect of war on its home front.

[Ahmad] Can there be some kind of parity — both quantitative and qualitative — between Iraq and Iran in the next 2 or 3 years?

[Abu Ghazalah] I doubt that for several reasons. Iran might try to achieve such parity, but there would be obstacles preventing it. Perhaps the first obstacle is that the big powers are not convinced this war has served its purpose. Furthermore, there is an international concensus on the need to end the war.

[Ahmad] What can the international concensus do vis-a-vis Iran's obstinacy?

[Abu Ghazalah] The ending of the war need not necessarily take place through armed force. There are other means such an arms embargo, heavy military presence, and the reduction of oil prices so the warring sides will not have the resources to continue to fight. Perhaps, the U.S., French, and British presence in the Gulf is the beginning of an effort to end the war and begin a peaceful dialogue. The Arab Gulf war would then turn into another kind of problem. It would resemble the Palestine problem. It would continue for years. It is the privilege of the superpowers. The pressure of military expenditure would continue to be applied to both sides. The superpowers would then turn to another issue that would preoccupy the Arabs and divert their attention from the Palestine question, which has already taken second place to the Gulf war. The Arab states would then find themselves bogged down in the vicious circle of purchasing arms at the expense of their own economic development programs. Thus matters would come to a standstill. The only thing that could happen is that one of the sides might violate the cease-fire. However, this could be contained easily. This is the most likely scenario.

[Ahmad] What is the real situation on the Iraqi- Iranian front?

[Abu Ghazalah] The current situation is close to a static border war. Neither side is able to carry out major operations penetrating deeply into its opponent's territory. It is a kind of attrition war accompanied by a certain degree of limited movement not affecting the general situation. The Iranians seize the opportunity of bad weather conditions — such as heavy rainfalls that impedes Iraq's superiority in the air and its armored ground forces — and use their massive manpower to penetrate the Iraqi border up to distances of 3 to 6 kilometers. When weather conditions improve, the Iraqi Armed Forces use their Air Force and armored forces to regain lost territory and so forth.

[Ahmad] Iran is currently discussing a new advance against Basra. Can Tehran achieve such an objective?

[Abu Ghazalah] Iran's claims are a kind of war of words. The Iranians have enormous manpower which they can mobilize and mass at night to penetrate the Iraqi border in some areas. The Iranians lose many of their soldiers and sustain heavy losses in equipment. Using its armored columns and Air Force, Iraq replies to these attacks and regains the territory it lost during the night. This is what is currently happening on the front. Thus far, we have not seen Iran carry out an operation that penetrates deep into Iraqi territory to the point of seizing towns or destroying main fighting formations. I believe the situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front will remain stable until there has been a quantitative and qualitative change in the balance of power.

[Ahmad] How does Iraq's qualitative superiority compare in the current balance of power?

[Abu Ghazalah] Iraq has more than 3,000 tanks compared to 700 Iranian tanks. Iraq has more than 400 planes, while Iran has only 80-85 planes. There is a wide gap between the two sides. However, if we are surprised one day to find that Iran has 300-400

planes plus its vast manpower, then the present balance of power would be in danger.

[Ahmad] I believe it will be difficult to bridge this wide gap in the current international atmosphere which has made arms supplies difficult, especially after the UN Security Council resolution on a cease-fire. Furthermore, to the five large powers, participation in the resolution signifies some kind of commitment to stop arms supplies.

[Abu Ghazalah] It is not easy for any side to purchase 100 or 200 planes. The supply of such planes could take more than 1 year. The training of pilots also takes years. If Iran wanted to purchase 1,000 or 2,000 tanks, where would it turn? There is not a single war plant in the world today that can produce more than 150 tanks a year. For Iran to purchase that number of tanks, it must wait at least 5-6 years. Furthermore, the arms producing states do not make provisions from their arsenals. Only the United States and the USSR do that.

[Ahmad] When the war erupted the two superpowers felt its continuation was necessary for many reasons. Can one say the war has actually served its purpose for the two superpowers?

[Abu Ghazalah] The Gulf war has achieved its desired results for the two superpowers. It has halted the economic development of the Arab oil states because 90 percent of the oil revenues are being spent on the war. If the Arab states were able to spend such vast sums on development projects and economic growth, they would have become powerful states economically and capable of competing with both East and West.

[Ahmad] How much money has been spent on the war?

[Abu Ghazalah] Estimates show that approximately $181 billion has been spent in aid to Iraq. This is an astronomical figure. You can imagine the result of spending $181 billion on the Arab countries' development. If such a vast sum had been well spent, the economic situation in the Arab states would have been totally different. They would have been able to build giant factories, provide work for youths, eliminate problems arising from extremism and deviation, and solve the debt problem.

[Ahmad] Some people say arms monopolies have now reached the point of saturation and have achieved their objectives; now, it is the building and contracting monopolies turn to make vast, fantastic profits from the reconstruction process.

[Abu Ghazalah] When the war ends, the billigerent states will turn to construction. They will be compelled to spend money on infrastructure projects instead of implementing agricultural and industrial projects. As soon as these states rebuild their infrastructures and important services, new hotbeds of tension will appear and lead to a new war. The hotbeds of tension are there; the other parties only have to open them so they will bleed. The big powers do not give antibiotics in such circumstances.

[Ahmad] Among the new changes in the region is China's stand. Once China supported Arab rights. However, it is now selling arms to Iran. Is it a policy of interests at the expense of principles?

[Abu Ghazalah] I do not want to discuss a specific state, but it is clear that in our present world it is economics that controls politics and war.

Why does any state want to manufacture arms? It wants to sell what it produces. The modern ways of exporting arms are devious and many. Thus, a state that manufactures arms sells them to a certain state through a third party, and the third party gives the arms to a fourth party who in turn transfers the arms to the final consumer.

When we examine the embargo on certain types of weapons we see that such bans are not binding. Seven allied states adopted a resolution not to transfer the technology of manufacturing long-range surface-to-surface missiles to any other country in the world except with the agreement of all seven states. Yet, some other states have obtained missiles with a range of 800 km despite the fact that the seven states affirmed they would not sell missiles with a range exceeding 300 km.

It is known that big powers that sell arms are always there. However, who can frighten them or make them abide by commitments? Then, there are small states that manufacture arms and are not sufficiently immune to threats. Consequently, they are afraid to sell arms openly and therefore sell through a third party.

[Ahmad] What motives prompt a strict, fanatical, Islamic country like Iran to link its strategy in this blatant manner to the same objectives of the Israeli strategy to weaken and besiege Arab capabilities?

[Abu Ghazalah] Can we imagine the Khomeyniite strategy as an Islamic strategy? I do not believe it is an Islamic strategy. We can say it is a Persian strategy. What Khomeyni is doing and what Israel is doing regarding the Palestine question are, in the final analysis, a single onslaught against the Arab world. Both Iran and Israel are trying to reduce the Arab capability. Regrettably there are those who say Khomeyni believes the road to Jerusalem should pass through Baghdad first and then the Arabian Peninsula. This is a delusion because if Khomeyni is capable of seizing the Arabian Peninsula, God forbid, he would allow Israel to swallow up everything around it to enable him to concentrate on striking the effective force — Egypt, then Sudan. Undoubtedly, if Iran managed to penetrate the Arabian Peninsula and reach the Red Sea then Egypt, not Israel, would be the danger facing it. Thus, there would be no confrontation between Iran and Israel.

[Ahmad] Is there is any harmony in the ultimate objectives of the Israeli and Iranian strategies?

[Abu Ghazalah] The harmony between the objectives of Iran and Israel is very clear. Reality shows that the Palestine question now enjoys the least international attention. This is what makes Egypt try the impossible to revive the issue in the mind of the world since the Arabs have become competely preoccupied with the Gulf war. I believe this harmony is unquestionable because it is in Israel's supreme interest for the Iraq-Iran war to continue.

[Ahmad] Your Excellency, field marshal, when we say Egypt's security is tied to Gulf security what is meant by that? Should we fulfill our national aspirations for solidarity by this concept, or does this concept actually entail real, mutual interests?

[Abu Ghazalah] What does national security mean? I do not believe national security is merely military security. National security goes beyoned this definition to include economic and political security. Although military security ranks at the bottom of security considerations and attention, it has a principal importance. If we speak of possible scenarios, that is if this war continues, we will find that this concept entails mutual interests and also fulfills our national aspiratons for solidarity. What would happen if Iran were triumphant over Iraq? You would be shocked to find that 2 million or 1.5 million Egyptians working in Iraq have become captives of Khomeyni's hegemony. Moreover, what would happen if Tehran managed to control the Gulf states? This would have a great impact on the Egyptians working in the Gulf states. I believe such a situation would greatly harm Egypt's national and economic security, as well as be a threat to Egypt itself. What would happen if the Khomeyniite danger spread in some form to the Red Sea and the hotbed of tension and confrontation moved from the Gulf to the Red Sea? Does this not mean a threat to the security of the Suez Canal and shipping in the Red Sea? I believe this would pose a threat to Egyptian national security. What would happen if Iraq collapsed, God forbid, and the Iranians managed to dominate the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, and reached the Red Sea? All these things constitute a major threat to Egyptian security.

[Ahmad] Your Excellency, field marshal, how much has Egypt contributed to supporting the steadfastness of Iraq, and how far can this support go?

[Abu Ghazalah] No one denies that on many occasions Iraq was unable to acquire weapons and ammunition. Arms deliveries were slow. World powers are known for dragging their feet when they sell arms in the hope of making gains from purchasers. This happened to us in the 1973 war when we needed 130-mm ammunition; they sent us different ammunition.

We have unquestiongly and unconditionally supplied all of Iraq's requirements, even though the subject of restoring diplomatic ties was not on the agenda. Undoubtedly, Egypt's military industries and Armed Forces have contributed significantly to Iraq's steadfastness by supplying it with important types of weapons and spare parts, not to mention the contribution of Egyptian manpower to the Iraqi economy to bolster the country's domestic front. Egyptian sacrifices in the Gulf war are many times over the amount of money given to Iraq by the Arabs. It is no secret that on many occasions we supplied Iraq with ammunition and arms from the Egyptian Armed Forces strategic reserves. We have done and will continue to do that out of an awareness of a vital link between the security of Egypt and the Gulf. Regrettably, some Arabs say economic motives are behind Egypt's enthusisatic support for Iraq. Nothing is further from the truth; if this were so, why do we not sell to Iran, the other party to the war? Iran has been and is still willing to pay $3 million for the tank we sell Iraq for $1 million. If Egypt had not viewed the Gulf war as a threat to its national security, it could have followed the example of other countries by selling Iran arms and ammunition through third parties.

[Ahmad] Your Excellency, field marshal, the Gulf states thought that by coordinating among themselves, independently of the rest of the Arab world, they could defend their regional security. However, recent developments have shown how interdependent Arab security is.

The war was triggered in order to deny the Arabs an opportunity to develop their potential toward becoming an influential world force. Ir Iran, as it has said, seeks to capture Basra and then proceeds to the Gulf and the Peninsula, this means the Persians are planning to get as far as the approaches to the Red Sea.

[Abu Ghazalah] The security of the Arab states is interdependent, despite attempts to overlook this fact. Now that Iran's objectives in the Peninsula have become clear, I feel the situation must change. Nevertheless, coordination among Gulf states, albeit incipient, can help obstruct Persian plans. It is vital that there be coordination among Gulf countries, but it must be a link in a chain and part of a more comprehensive setup. On the other hand, the absence of coordination would adversely affect the sum total of the resources in the possession of the Gulf states. Gulf Arab states have enough arms and resources to check Iran. However, the question is whether they have achieved a sufficient level of coordination. They have Arab minesweepers. Why have these not been used in clearing the Gulf? They have frigates and destroyers. Where is the Arab naval presence of these states? They have aircraft which may outperform those of Iran. How many have been used to protect Arab shipping and the Arab naval presence there?

[Ahmad] It seems the real problem is that all of the parties lack a serious dialogue that will achieve a reasonable measure of agreement on common security issues. Why has not such a dialogue begun in spite of the gravity of the situation with the military, security, and other dimensions it entails, and which seek to undermine the Arab countries security by exporting terrorism to them?

[Abu Ghazalah] I truly believe some parties have worked to entrench the dispute between Egypt and the Arab world. However, the Gulf catastrophe occured and everyone sensed the need to achieve rapprochement. I also believe it was planned for the Gulf catastrophe to take place in the absence of an understanding on the basic factors of pan- Arab security. I believe the situation is different now. There has been rapprochement but it is still a timid one.

[Ahmad] What prevents the occurence of an Egyptian- Saudi dialogue? Why can it not take place, especially since we know the Iranian schemes are targetted against the Peninsula and the Red Sea approaches and seek to undermine domestic security here and there under the pretext of exporting the revolution while in fact they seek to export terrorism?

[Abu Ghazalah] We hope this will take place. I believe there are no obstacles to prevent such a dialogue.

[Ahmad] Your Excellency, field marshal, perhaps some Saudi circles still have seom reservations and apprehensiions. Regrettably, these circles are discussing previous experiences such as the entry of the Egyptian Army into Al-Dir'iyah village during Muhammad 'Ali's era and the Egyptian stand on the Yemen war. Some here also have reservations because they believe Saudi Arabia may be supporting some parties in Egypt. The only solution is the holding of a direct, frank dialogue because flowery language and courteous stands are not sufficient to reach an understanding on the link between Egyptian and Saudi security?

[Abu Ghazalah] The Al-Dir'iyah incident was planned by the Sublime Porte during the era of the Ottoman empire. Everyone received orders from the Sublime Porte because Egypt was an Ottoman province. Egyptian intervention in Yemen was a freak incident that took place at a specific time and ended with Saudi-Egyptian reconciliation under the Jeddah agreement.

Egyptian-Arab relations are now based on the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs, the enhancement of factors of agreement, and the elimination of factors of disagreement.

The Arab world is no longer an adolescent and factors of disagreement no longer prevail over the factors of solidarity.

The current issue we face is the fact that we are experiencing real dangers whether with respect to the continuation of military tension and its exacerbation in the region, or with respect to the exploitation of this tension to arrange relations among the big powers in our region without Arab participation. Therefore, we must not delve into past differences because if we review our history, we will find out that the absence of joint interests and concepts brought about negative results. I support your viewpoint that a frank, direct dialogue may remove any past differences if such diferences exist.

[Ahmad] Your Excellency, field marshal, perhaps one part of problem lies in the fact that many foreign powers do not want Egypt to resume its role in pan-Arab security affairs.

[Abu Ghazalah] Undoubtedly, a country that has interests in another country would not like a third party, even if it is a friend, to have a presence in its zone of influence. This exists even within the Western alliance.

However, the settlement of the problem should ultimately be carried out by those who are directly concerned, the local and regional parties. The big powers cannot impose a decision on them. A problem would not have occurred if the Arabs had mobilized their potentialities to achieve a solidarity that safeguards pan-Arab security.

[Ahmad] Your Excellency, field marshal, I thank you for your time and for the interview you have granted *Al-Musawwar*. I also thank you for your frankness and clarity.

AL-AKHBAR Reports Arrest of Al-Jihad Member

NC010658 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0632 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA) — *Al-Akhbar* reports today that suspect Ismail Ramadan Jawdah, a third terrorist and member of the military wing of the Al-Jihad Organization, has been arrested. Jawdah works as a painter and is married to the sister of terrorist Yusri' Abd al-Munim.

The paper adds that the suspect turned himself in to security forces who had surrounded his hideout in the Shubra al-Khaymah area yesterday evening. He later made an interesting confession in which he admitted to changing the license plates and color of vehicles used in the assassination attempts against [former Interior Ministers] Hasan Abu Basha and Al-Nabawi Isma'il and [journalist] Makram Muhammad Ahmad. He also admitted to a surveillance and assistance role in other terrorist operations.

Statement on Confession

NC311606 Cairo MENA in Arabic
500 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA) — In a statement released today, the Interior Ministry has announced that the suspect Yusri 'Abd al-Mun'im has made a detailed confession to the Public Prosecution Office about the recent assassination attempts in Egypt, as well as the terrorist organization to which he belongs. This organization was led by Muhammad Kazim, who was killed during the operation to take him into custody. The text of the Interior Ministry statement follows:

The Al-Jizan Prosecution Office began interrogating the suspect Yusri 'Abd al-Mun'im as soon as he was detained yesterday evening, Sunday. He made a detailed confession about the assassination attempts against Hasan Abu Basha, former interior minister; journalist Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chairman of the board of the Al-hilal Publishing House and editor in chief of *Al-Musawwar* magazine; and Muhammad al- Nabawi Isma'il, former deputy prime minister and interior minister. He also made a confession about the magnitude of the terrorist organization to which he belongs, which was headed by Muhammad Kazim 'Abd al-Qawi.

An official source in the State Security Investigation Office stated earlier that the information available about the radical groups and the intensive efforts exerted by the office contributed to locating the hideout of Yusri 'Abd al-Mun'im. A plan involving plainclothesmen was devised to apprehend him, and when he emerged from his hideout, the state secret security forces took him by surprise from all directions. He was unable to flee and surrendered without resistance. A plastic bag was seized and found to contain the revolver of the policeman Hamadah Salamah Hamad, who was martyred in the Al-Kharqaniyah shootout to apprehend the suspects. The bag also contained a magazine with 10 bullets, a switchblade, and important documents on the terrorist organization.

Maltese Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

NC312131 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2025 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA) — Maltese Foreign Minister Vincent Tabone has stated that his meeting with President Mubarak today underlined the good relations which exist between Egypt and Malta in all fields. The meeting, he said, has added considerable success to his visit to Egypt. He described his talks with all Egyptian officials as successful and extremely fruitful.

At a news conference in Cairo this evening, the Maltese foreign minister stated that his country supports the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as all the parties concerned. He stressed Malta's support for the peace efforts being made in the region.

Regarding the talks he held with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al- Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Tabone said that they covered a general review of all international issues that concern both countries, particularly the Mediterranean issues, the Middle East situation, the Iran-Iraq war, and the situation in Lebanon.

He added that he explained to Dr 'Abd al-Majid Malta's policy toward its neighbors and the countries of the world, noting that there was an identity of views between the two sides, particularly on the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern issues.

The Maltese minister affirmed his country's adherence to the policy of nonalignment, saying that Malta will neither agree to become the headquarters of any military base or foreign force nor allow its territory to be used for acts of aggression by one state against another. He noted that Malta's position stems from its abidance by the principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

Mr Tabone described Malta's relations with Libya as relations of cooperation, particularly in the commercial and industrial fields. He added, however, that his country does not permit Libya or any other country to intervene in its internal affairs. He said: We are an independent state which is committed to good relations with its neighbors and the principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

Asked whether the strengthening of his country's relations with Egypt will affect Malta's relations with Libya, Mr Tabone said that he does not think so, because Malta does not allow its friendship with any state to form an obstacle in the way of its friendship with any other.

Referring to Maltese-Egyptian relations, the Maltese foreign minister said that there are great possibilities for strengthening cooperation between the two countries. He noted that these possibilities, the most prominent of which is cooperation in the cultural, educational, tourism, economic, and commercial fields, were discussed with the Egyptian officials.

The Maltese minister said that during his meeting today with Egyptian businessmen, there was a general agreement to increase bilateral cooperation and trade. He emphasized that his country encourages the private sector and opens the door to cooperation, particularly in the field of tourism.

Concluding his news conference, Mr Tabone said that the coming period will witness reciprocal visits by officials of the two countries. He pointed out that he had yesterday conveyed to Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi an invitation from the Maltese prime minister to visit his country. He also made a similar invitation to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Mr Tabone is scheduled to leave Cairo tomorrow to pay an official visit to Algeria.

Armed Forces Called on To Join 1 Sep Celebration

LD282040 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] In celebrating the 18th anniversary of the Great 1 September Revolution, the Libyan Arab Armed Forces General Command calls on all brother servicemen who have not yet joined their units and those on leave to join their units immediately to take part in the military display which will be held on this immortal occasion. In view of the importance of this impending event, attendance is requested.

[Signed] General Command

Foreign Delegations Arrive for Al-Fatih Anniversary

PLF's Hawatimah, Ya'qub Arrive

LD302127 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 30 Aug (JANA) — Brother Naif Hawatimah, secretary general of the PLFP, and Brother Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front, arrived in Tripoli this evening to take part in the commemoration of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution by the Arab Libyan people. [passage omitted]

Ghana's Rawlings Arrives

LD302139 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 30 Aug (JANA) — Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council of Ghana, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening to take part in the Arab Libyan people's commemoration of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution. [passage omitted]

In a statement to JANA at Tripoli airport Flt. Lt Rawlings said: My visit comes in the context of participating in the commemoration by the Libyan people of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution. He added: We shall try to find solutions to our problems within an African framework, without foreign interference.

Al-Qadhdhafi Talks With Rawlings

LD302147 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council of Ghana.

Algeria's Rabah Bitat Arrives

LD302140 Tripoli JANA in English 1848 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 30, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Rabah Bitat, the member of Political Bureau of the Algerian FLN party and the president of the National People's Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him arrived this evening in Tripoli to participate with the Libyan Arab people in its celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

In a statement to the correspondent of JANA, Mr Bitat said "We came as an Algerian parliamentary delegation to participate in the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution to express our happiness to visiting your country and we consider any success in Jamahiriyah is a success for Algeria.

He added this visit comes within the unionist action towards achieving the great goal for the realisation of unity. We came to reaffirm our solidarity with our Libyan brothers. I carry a letter from President Chadli Bendjedid to my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Rabah Bitat

LD311702 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Brother Rabah Bitat, member of the FLN Political Bureau and chairman of the Algerian National People's Assembly and the delegation accompanying him.

Jallud Welcomes Ugandan President

LD312007 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni arrived in Tripoli this evening to attend the Libyan Arab people's celebrations on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

The guest president was accorded a big welcome at Tripoli International Airport where Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud was at the forefront of those who welcomed him. Taking part in the welcome were the secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary for the People's Committees' Affairs, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, members of diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah, some officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the Ugandan ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, and a large number of the sons of the Ugandan community in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Museveni

LD010729 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda, and Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council of Ghana.

UK Parliamentarians Arrive

LD010854 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Sep (JANA) — The British parliamentary delegation arrived in Tripoli last night to attend the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

In a statement to JANA's correspondent, Labor MP Ron Brown hailed the Libyan Arab people for their stands in support of the labor movement. He said "With our visit to the Jamahiriyah we defy [word indistinct] and we declare our solidarity with you despite all the plots hatched against you."

Saudi Minister of State Attends

LD010859 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Sep (JANA) — Dr al-Mulham, Saudi minister of state, arrived in Tripoli last night to attend the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the 18th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

Syrian Ba'th Party Official Arrives

LD010925 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 1 Sep (JANA) — 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived in Tripoli last night to take part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people marking the 18th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution. [passage omitted on Yunis Jabir and others welcoming Al-Ahmar and his delegation at the airport]

Al-Turayki Represents Tunisia

LD010959 Tripoli JANA in English 0806 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 1, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Yesterday evening, Muhammad 'Ali al-Turayki, the member of the Central Committee of the Tunisian Constitutional Socialist Party and the personal envoy to [as received] President Habib Bourguiba, arrived in Tripoli to take part in the celebrations of the Libyan Arab people of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

In a statement to JANA, Al-Turayki expressed best wishes for the Libyan Arab people and more progress and prosperity.

He said: "It is a chance for me personally that President Habib Bourguiba has appointed me his personal envoy and a representative of the people and Government of Tunisia to take part in the great Al-Fatih celebrations."

He pointed out that his visit will contribute to consolidating relations between the Arab people of both sisterly countries, Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

Al-Qadhdhafi, PLO, Lebanese Envoys Meet

LD312102 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a number of secretaries and members of the Palestinian revolution detachments and the patriotic and progressive Lebanese forces who have come to the Great Jamahiriyah to share with the Libyan Arab people their celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

The brother leader received Brothers: Muhammad Khalifah, assistant secretary general of the Organization of the Vanguards of the Popular Liberation War — the Sa'iqah Forces — and Sami Qindil, member of the organization; Taysir Qubba'ah, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command; Nayif Hawatmah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front; Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front and Sultan Ahmad, member of the Front; George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party and George Batal, member of the Political Bureau of the party; 'Atif Sayigh and Ghanim Tarabiyah, members of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party; Ahmad al-Khatib, commander of Lebanon's Arab Army; and Marwan Faris, vice president of the Syrian Socialist Nationalist Party in Lebanon, and Joseph Sab'i, member of the party.

Foreign Envoys Summoned; Aozou Recapture Justified

LD311441 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has summoned the heads of the Italian, Greek, Spanish, and Yugoslav diplomatic missions and informed them of the following:

1. We have already informed you about the aggression on our southern border and we have given a chance for peaceful efforts to ensure the withdrawal of the attacking forces from our territory. But it became apparent that the agent Habre was continuing on the path he had chosen. Therefore the Great Jamahiriyah had no option but to use force. Indeed, the Libyan Arab Armed Forces marched on the village of Aozou on 28 August 1987 and liberated it in less than 2 hours.

2. The Great Jamahiriyah has no ambitions in anybody's land, but practices the right of self-defense and will not allow Habre to threaten it again.

3. We reaffirm that the military presence in Chad of forces from outside the continent is responsible for the escalation of tension in the region. It also encourages the agent Habre to attack his neighbors and constitutes an obstacle to efforts made by the OAU to solve the Chadian problem.

200 French Troops in CAR for Deployment in Chad

LD311933 Tripoli JANA in English 1748 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Bangui, Hannibal [August] 31, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — A French officer announced in Bangui — the capital of the Central African Republic — that 200 paratroopers of the French foreign infantry battalion have arrived 2 weeks ago to "Bouar" military zone in Central Africa.

The officer indicated that all this regiment's men, who come from the Caribbean island with brown skins, are due to be sent to northern Chad on Wednesday 2 Al-Fatih [September].

He added that all documents and identity cards which indicate the nationality of the troops have been withdrawn and a "transal" aeroplane with no markings is ready to transport them to northern Chad.

JANA Denies Blame for Musa al-Sadr's Disappearance

LD312029 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 31 Aug (JANA) — A rally was held today in Tyre, Lebanon, by the Amal movement devoted to the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr. A number of speakers in this rally have tried to force the name of the Great Jamahiriyah into the disappearance case. The JANA Arab affairs editor comments on this, saying that at a time when we express our regret over the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his companions, one should stress the need to raise this question in regard to the main side concerned with the issue, namely the Italian Government. What has been established and was made public at the time and repeated several times is the fact that Imam al-Sadr had left the Jamahiriyah precisely on 31 August 1978 on Alitalia flight number 881 from Tripoli bound for Rome.

This has been confirmed by the company itself, in addition to the other material evidence that confirms the arrival of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two companions in Rome, including the name of the hotel in which the three men stayed and their passports found there.

The editor underlined that Italy was the one concerned with this issue, and it must prove its innocence or the accusation will remain restricted to it.

As far as the Great Jamahiriyah is concerned, it can only reiterate its regret over the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two companions. It also affirms that it puts all its capabilities at the disposal of the search for the truth and the ascertainment of the fate of Al-Sadr, given that his disappearance coincided with the conclusion of his visit to Libya. Some have an interest in scheming and casting doubt, and in forcing the name of Libya into this case despite the fact that we have declared several times that we are not responsible for this case.

The JANA editor further says: We in the Great Jamahiriyah also affirm on this occasion our solidarity with our brothers the Shi'ites in Lebanon. We stand with those who have fought for the cause of Islam and pan-Arabism, and who are still confronting the Zionist enemy, the enemy of the Arabs and all Muslims. We also affirm — and this is known by our brothers in Lebanon — that the one called Nabih Birri does not represent the Shi'ites. His links with the United States have been exposed; he has fought the Palestinian people, and he is Sharon's associate in the hideous massacres and crimes against the masses of the Palestinian camps. He is therefore an agent of Mossad, and the Shi'ites as well as the Arabs and Muslims have nothing to do with him.

Army Commander in Chief Addresses Graduates

EA291024 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Group 35A [as heard] took part in a graduation ceremony at the military academy today. The ceremony was held as part of the Army Day celebrations of the People's Armed Forces.

General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief, addressed the gathering. His excellency hailed the Sudanese people and their Armed Forces on the 33d anniversary of the day when the first Sudanese commander took over the Army Command. He also hailed members of the Armed Forces stationed throughout Sudan. His excellency said that thanks to the performance of the Armed Forces, the rebellion had lost a great deal of ground and was now suffering serious setbacks.

Gen Fawzi Amhad al-Fadil explained that in accordance with their great national mission, the Armed Forces stand aloof from political connections and polarizations. He praised the support of the people for their Armed Forces and the State Council for issuing instructions which will allow the Armed Forces to receive all the equipment they require to safeguard the homeland. He thanked the prime minister and minister of defense and the executive leadership for supporting the Armed Forces and taking pride in their role.

The ceremony was attended by Ahmad al-Mirghani, State Council chairman; members of the State Council; Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister, minister of defense, and the commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces. [title as heard]

Ahmad al-Mirghani distributed awards to outstanding students.

Says Rebellion 'Deteriorating'

JN291131 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Aug (SUNA) — General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil, commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces, says the rebel movement has resorted to robbery and plunder, with its members turning into remnants and thieves who terrorize peaceful civilians more than they fight the Armed Forces. He stressed that the rebellion has receded considerably and is now deteriorating.

Addressing the graduation ceremony for a new class of the military academy on Thursday, his excellency said: "While we in the Armed Forces Command are fully convinced that a military solution is not the ideal one and that only a peaceful solution to the problem of the south can produce viable results, given the political and social circumstances surrounding the problem, we will nonetheless not have remnants of the rebellion disturbing security, killing the innocent, and disrupting construction in the south."

The commander in chief urged public support for the Armed Forces so they can deal a fatal blow to the rebels and impress on their leadership or manipulators that hostilities are futile and that only dialogue serves the interests of the Sudanese people. His excellency commended the support that the Armed Forces enjoy among the Sudanese people, emphasizing that it provides the motive for further acts of heroism.

Minister Allegedly Accepting Bribe To Be Probed

JN290958 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, Aug. 29 (SUNA) — A committee was formed Thursday [27 August] to investigate in what was published in the daily *Al-Siyasah* recently that a minister has received a half million Sudanese pounds from a foreign diplomat against telling him about his party's secrets, Attorney General Abdul-Mahmud Elhaj Salih announced.

The committee will submit its report on the matter to the attorney general within a two weeks period, he said.

SPLM's Garang Gives Press Conference in Nairobi

EA302101 Nairobi SUNDAY STANDARD in English 30 Aug 87 p 1

[Article by Ngumo wa Kuria: "We're Ready for Peace Talks, Says Col Garang"]

[Text] The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is ready to hold peace talks and exchange prisoners with the Khartoum government. The leader of the SPLM, Col John Garang, said yesterday in Nairobi that the movement's door was open for peace negotiations with Khartoum to end the five-year war in the south. Our door is wide open for the talks, Col Garang told reporters during an interview. He was in transit.

The rebel leader, however, accused Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi of crushing the peace process during August last year after the military wing of the movement, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA, shot down a civilian aircraft that was overflying the SPLM territory. Said the colonel: Al-Mahdi slammed the door after the incident and branded us terrorists.

Following that incident, added Col Garang, the Khartoum government slammed the door for any peace process. But we are ready, even at this moment, to resume the talks, because no war will end with war but with negotiations, Col Garang said.

He said his movement had forewarned Al-Mahdi against flying civilian aircraft in the south, but he would not listen so when this plane entered our territory we shot it down.

He emphasized that the war in the south was central to the collapse of the Numayri regime in April 1985 and now the disintegration of the coalition government of Al-Mahdi.

Col Garang lashed out at Al-Mahdi's Al-Ummah Party, with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of intransigence. The Al-Ummah Party has all along been intransigent because they make decisions in Khartoum and then they invite us. We do not want to be invited but we want participation, Garang told newsmen. The colonel sporting a well-kept beard and a cream suit, said two battalions broke away from the Sudanese National Army and formed the nucleus of the SPLA.

On the recent release of four white hostages, Col Garang said President Moi was instrumental in getting their release, adding that the Kenya Government played a major role in the release. He said in our statements about the hostages we thanked the government of President Moi and the people of Kenya for facilitating the release. The SPLA leader added that the hostages were not involved in the war. Saying presently two white priests are held by the SPLA as well as hundreds of prisoners of war, Col Garang said his group is ready to exchange the prisoners with the Khartoum government through mediation of the international Red Cross committee.

Col Garang condemned some foreign countries for claiming that the SPLA was heartless for not allowing the provision of relief supplies in the south. We are fighting for the people and therefore we are concerned about their welfare. The question that the SPLA is denying access for famine relief does not arise, he said. Our detractors are the ones who are deliberately making the claim to try and confuse issues, he noted.

Col Garang said some of the problems facing the Sudan include the question of nationality, religion and the country's debt crisis. We are the only country in the whole world with an association of amputees, observed the colonel, adding that the Al-Mahdi government had refused to compensate the amputees, he went on.

Garang Blames Government for Peace Failure

JN301136 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Aug (SUNA) — Colonel John Garang holds the Sudanese Government reponsible for the fumbling of peace endeavors and said that the prime minister has violated the Koka Dam agreement because he thinks that he can achieve a military victory to bring the SPLM to the negotiating table while it is still weak.

In a statement to the magazine *Sudan Times* quoted by the Khartoum newspaper *Al-Ayyam* today, Garang said that the government's military escalation has failed to realize any victory. On the contrary, it has led to the strengthening of the movement's position.

Garang claimed that his movement is in control of the whole of southern Sudan with the exception of the main cities. He affirmed the SPLM's commitment to the Koka Dam agreement.

General Fawzi al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has declared that the rebel movement has begun to retreat and has turned into plundering groups.

SPLA Reports Battle Successes in Pabair, Ajangno

EA291657 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Reports from Upper Nile say an enemy advance on two fronts by land and on a steamer to rescue its besieged garrison of Kodok has been intercepted and beaten back with heavy casualties on 20th of August 1987 at Pabair. According to our correspondent, quoting reliable sources in Malakal, the enemy force was dispatched under orders to burn down civilian settlements and killing the settlers as they moved on Kodok, but our correspondent says these destructive plans of the enemy did not materialize as the enemy's troops were routed at Pabair by combined SPLA forces comprising units from Fashoda and Khawr Fulus Battalions under the direct command of Major Oyway Deng Ajak and units from Daniel (Chogi) Task Force commanded by First Lieutenant John Malan Abok and other units from (Zur Zalzal) Headquarters commanded by Lieutenant Majok Mamer Atem. [passage omitted]

Details of the ambush conducted by SPLA forces on the enemy soldiers [at] Ajangno in Rumbek, revealed that the enemy commander of the convoy, Colonel (Choge), who sustained serious injuries at the ambush and [was] flown to Wau military hospital, died 3 days after arrival. Correspondent in Rumbek says that the deputy commander of the enemy forces in Rumbed Lieutenant-Colonel Emmanuel (Mantot) has now taken over the command following the death of his commander, Col (Choge). It is worth mentioning that the ambush at Ajangno took place on 14th July 1987.

SPLA: 17 Government Soldiers Die in Landmine Blasts

EA311948 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Seventeen enemy soldiers have been killed and several others sustained injuries in two separate landmine blasts between Rokon and Jambo on Juba-Maridi road last month. A correspondent said that the mines were laid and placed by units of Hadid and Aqrab Battalions under the command of Captain (Makir Thiong Mal) and Captain John (Ayei Manyok) respectively.

In another development units of Aqrab Battalion under the overall command of Captain Thuon Akot (Akuon) shelled Mundri garrison town killing more than 10 enemy soldiers and injuring scores. The correspondent says that a number of heads of cattle were also seized from the enemy. [passage omitted]

KUWAIT

Oil Minister Receives U.S. Senate Delegation

LD011233 Kuwait KUNA in English 1058 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 1 (KUNA) — A senior delegation from the Foreign Affairs Committee in the U.S. Senate Tuesday conferred here with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi al-Sabah.

The four-man delegation discussed with Shaykh 'Ali developments in the Arabian Gulf region and effects of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war on freedom of navigation, oil sources told KUNA.

The delegation was briefed by Shaykh 'Ali about Kuwait's drive, in cooperation with OPEC member countries, for the stability of the international oil market, the sources added.

The U.S. delegation arrived here last night for a three-day visit during which they will confer with senior Kuwaiti officials.

Defense Minister Receives U.S. Official Derwinsky

LD011218 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 1 (KUNA) — Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah received Tuesday Undersecretary at the U.S. State Department for Security Affairs Edward Derwinsky. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries in addition to a number of global and Arab issues topped by latest developments in the Gulf area.

Foreign Ministry Figure on Turkish Ties, Gulf War

NC281534 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 25 Aug p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman al-Majid al-Shahin by *Milliyet* correspondent Vehbi Sargin, in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sargin] Turkey and Kuwait share many common values and interests. In light of this, how do you assess bilateral relations? Are there weak points which should be strengthened? If so, what are they and what can be done to strengthen them?

[Al-Shahin] Turkey and Kuwait are linked by historic, cultural, and traditional ties. We have influenced each other for centuries. Mutual respect and affection remained between us even after Kuwait achieved its independence. Undoubtedly, more steps can be taken to further develop existing relations. Turkey has a very influential ambassador in Kuwait who is making serious efforts to determine how to do just that. [passage omitted]

[Sargin] Mr Under Secretary, the Turkish people were deeply saddened by the Iran-Iraq war and the gradual escalation of tension in the Gulf region. Turkey hopes the crisis will be resolved soon for the sake of peace in the region and the world. What do you expect from Turkey at this point? How can Ankara help you resolve the Gulf problem?

[Al-Shahin] Before saying anything else, I would like to note that we greatly appreciate President Evren's approach. He is one of the most influential leaders in the region. Turkey has common borders with Iran and Iraq, so President Evren's influence can be extremely important to efforts to resolve the problem.

Of course, we do not believe the problem can be resolved by Turkey alone. Nevertheless, we expect Turkey, which has as much influence as any other country, to make initiatives promoting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for a cease-fire.

Turkey has various means at its disposal to convince Iran in this regard, such as its economic and trade relations with Iran. Turkey holds many trump cards against Iran. We expect our Turkish brothers to use the trump cards they hold.

Turkey is trying to prove to the world it maintains an impartial policy toward Baghdad and Iran. We do not understand why this approach is maintained when one of these countries has agreed to the UN Security Council resolution and the other has rejected it.

Turkey must understand the positions held by Iran and Iraq on the matter and move to convince Iran. By placing Iran and Iraq in the same basket you encourage Tehran to maintain its present attitude. Turkey must make Iran understand that its stand is illogical. Such an approach is also in the interests of the Iranian people.

[Sargin] Mr Under Secretary, as I mentioned in my first question, Turkey and Kuwait share many common values and interests. One of them is the concept of Islamic brotherhood, as you have also emphasized. Looking at both countries from the viewpoint of Islamic brotherhood, can we conclude Kuwait has been giving sufficient support to Turkey on international problems, such as the oppression of Turks in Bulgaria and the Cyprus question?

[Al-Shahin] We are convinced Turkey understand's Kuwait's views on such sensitive issues. Kuwait pursues a neutral policy on such sensitive matters. Turkey's approach toward these problems has always been positive. It has been making an effort to cooperate and resolve these problems.

Kuwait has supported Turkey's initiatives to contribute toward their settlement. We have always supported peaceful solutions in debates by regional or international organizations. Therefore it is natural that we support every peaceful move Turkey makes to resolve these problems.

[Sargin] Do you have a message you would like to convey to Turkey and the Turkish people through *Milliyet*?

[Al-Shahin] As you know, approximately 10,000 Kuwaitis visit your beautiful country every year, a figure that is gradually increasing. This is an important example of our direct bilateral ties. Undoubtedly, the fact that each and every Kuwaiti citizen is happy to visit Turkey enhances the political and diplomatic relations between our countries. [passage omitted]

SAUDI ARABIA

Eastern Province Amir on Area Security Situation

LD312050 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2011 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Al-Dammam, 31 Aug (SPA) — To correct what *Reuter* and UPI attributed to His Royal Highness Amir Muhammad ibn Fahd, amir of the Eastern Province, during the visit paid to his office in the Eastern Province yesterday, the amir made the following statement to SPA:

Some reporters asked me several questions on the conditions of Shi'ite citizens in the province, on the security situation there as a whole, and on political matters which are outside my competence. As regards the Shi'ites of the province, I expressed my surprise at this question and told them we see this province only in the context of the Kingdom's entire population with no discrimination or distinction in dealings. They all live within one framework in a society dominated by harmony, justice, and equal opportunities in the shadow of Islamic law.

As regards the question on the possibility of a military confrontation with Iran, I told them the Kingdom calls for peace, does not strive for confrontation, and avoids all evils with all its means.

Concerning the security climate in the province, I confirmed to those inquiring about the stability and security prevailing in the province and the steady economic, industrial, and educational progress in relation to the past.

His royal highness ended his statement by saying: Anything other than this which is attributed to me by the two agencies is merely interpretation and commentary by the reporters.

Daily on Arab Ministers' 'Success' in Tunis

JN300912 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 27 Aug 87 p 7

[Editorial: "The Arab Foreign Ministers Conference"]

[Text] In their recent extraordinary meeting in Tunis, the Arab foreign ministers succeeded in achieving genuine Arab solidarity. The least that can be said about the resolutions adopted by the Arab foreign ministers conference is that they achieved a genuine Arab solidarity that has not been seen for a long time. Moreover, they have shown a strong Arab sense of the dangers threatening the Arab world and a sense of the historic responsibility laid upon them. Perhaps the full and absolute support for the measures taken by the Kingdom to protect Muslim holy places from troublemakers and to confront Iranian terorism in one of the holiest places on earth proves the solidarity achieved at the extraordinary session.

Eagerness for joint Arab action and the solidarity of the Arab nation when any Arab state faces difficulties prompted the conferees to take a collective stand in support of Saudi measures to ensure favorable conditions for the pilgrims to the House of God to perform the pilgrimage rites in safety and humility. Such a collective stand strongly condemned the destructive actions and disturbances by the agents of the Iranian regime, actions that violated the sanctity of holy places and pilgrimage rites and the safety and security of the House of God. The conferees affirmed their complete rejection of any disturbance in the holy places undermining the Kingdom's security and sovereignty.

That was not the only collective stand adopted by the Arab foreign ministers. All the Arab foreign ministers condemned Iran's violation of the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies and of the immunity of their staff — a serious violation of international law and custom and the norms that govern diplomatic relations among states.

It was also the first time the Arabs have agreed on a unified stand on relations with the Iranian regime. The conferees set 20 September as the deadline for defining future Arab-Iranian relations. These relations will be defined in light of Iran's stand on the continuation of the war against Iraq and its threats to the Arab Gulf states. Such a stand clearly shows that for the first time all the Arab states are capable of adopting a firm stand toward the Iranian regime. Such a stand is not a coincidence but springs from eagerness for joint Arab action. When an Arab state becomes the target of a genuine threat, everyone without exception opposes the threat.

By any criterion, the Arab foreign ministers achieved genuine success in unifying Arab ranks and preparing them for a unified stand in the face of the danger threatening the Arabian Gulf region. The danger comes from the Iranian regime, whose real intentions were exposed by its demagogic actions in Mecca, the storming and looting of the Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassies, and other violations in various parts of the world.

Armed Forces Continue Gulf War Operations

Missile Hits Iranian Tanker

JN311528 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] London, 31 Aug (INA) — The British Lloyds insurance company announced here a short while ago that an Iranian tanker was struck by an Iraqi missile this morning while it was near the Iranian coast. Lloyds told the INA office in London that a missile hit the engine room of the Iranian tanker *Shush* [name as received]. Lloyds explained that this tanker is owned by the Iranian tankers company. Its dead weight is 112,788,000 metric tons and it was built in 1972.

Earlier today, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi warplanes dealt two devastating blows to two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast last night and this morning.

Communique No 2,804 Issued

JN311707 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,804 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 31 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With growing capabilities, high courage, efficient performance, and with afirm belief in God's victory and in the sacred duty to defend the homeland, our brave Armed Forces continue their heroic combat activities. A roundup of these activities for last night and today follows:

1. The people and their leadership want to cut the aggressors' oil supplies and to prevent their use for aggressive purposes. Pursuant to this will, the planes of our heroic Air Force dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 2330 [1930 GMT] yesterday. At 0745 today, our planes dealt another devastating blow to a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast. Our aircraft today carrried out 200 combat missions over the Arab Gulf waters and in the operational sectors to inflict losses on the remnants of the aggressors. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

With God's support, we will continue to strike at economic tragets and oil supplies. We will do so as long as the war continues and as long as the Iranian regime insists on this war. Success comes from God, our supporter.

2. With 33 combat missions, the brave helicopter gunship knights dealt effective blows to enemy positions and troop concentrations. They caused enemy losses in weapons, equipment, and scoundrels. The knights then returned safely to base, in God's care.

3. Our courageous units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah pounded enemy units opposite them and managed to inflict new losses on the aggressors. They killed nine enemy personnel and destroyed five infantry positions, while also damaging a shovel [preceding word in English] and detonating five ammunition dumps.

4. In the I Army Corps northern sector, a number of enemy personnel were killed, seven infantry positions and a shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed, and three vehicles were set ablaze.

5. Two infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed and their occupants killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. In another area of the sector, one of our patrols found one 60-mortar, six RPG-7 launchers, four (?PKC) machineguns, five Kalashnikovs, and one sniping rifle left behind by the enemy in previous battles.

6. Two enemy machineguns were destroyed and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. Two observation posts were destroyed and their occupants killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

8. Five enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port. However, the port's brave force confronted them, sank one of them, and forced the remaining boats to flee.

9. Using long-range artillery, the vile Khomeyniites shelled residential areas in the city of Basra. One woman and one child were martyred, another woman and a civilian were wounded, and a number of houses and civilian property were damaged. The evil ones also shelled the outskirts of Qal'at Dizah and three other adjacent villages. Mercy to our two martyrs and may our two wounded have a speedy recovery, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 31 August 1987

2 'Large Maritime Targets' Hit

JN010554 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0525 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Statement issued by military spokesman on 1 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No sooner had our triumphant leader, may God preserve him, ordered us to punish the Iranian regime and implement our Iraqi people's will to destroy the oil supplies that the regime of charlatans uses for its aggression purposes, our brave hawks flew over the Arab Gulf day and night to pound the maritime targets that carry enemy oil. At midnight last night they dealt a devastating blow to a large maritime target in the tanker holding area east of Khark Island. At 0207 [2207 GMT on 31 August], another destructive blow was dealt to a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After carrying out these missions, all of our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

Due to its responsibility toward its territory, sovereignty, social options, and the security of its citizens, and in fulfillment of its commitments to regional security, Iraq will continue to exercise its firm, legitimate right to cut off Iranian oil supplies until the war ends and until the Iranian regime responds to the will of the international community and accepts UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as an indivisible whole through frank, declared, and documented approval. Otherwise, there will henceforth be no place for playing with words, for maneuvers, and for seizing

opportunities to continue exporting oil and exploiting its resources to carry out aggressions against Iraq. Iraq cannot be deceived by these tricks and will not tolerate them. In fact, our country has always been able to call for peace through a firm belief in our values, and to punish the war advocates through its well-known capability.

Blessed be our heroic Air Force. God is with us because we are on the right course.

[Dated] 1 September 1987

Iranian Tanker Struck 1 Sep

JN010713 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0700 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] It has been learned from Gulf shipping sources that two Iraqi fighter aircraft hit an Iranian oil tanker in the middle of the Gulf at dawn today. However, the source said the raid did not result in any loss of life and it appears that the material damage was minor.

This is the sixth raid by the Iraqi Air Force on Iranian tankers since Iraq resumed its attacks on Iranian economic installations on 29 August.

Communique No 2,805 Issued

JN011045 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
0940 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Communique No 2,805 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great; praise be to Him. God is great. Glory to the hero Iraqis, the advocates of peace who out of faith and virtue firmly and strongly confront the enemies, the warmongers who insist on tyranny. O glorious Iraqis, we always carry out what we say. When our leadership — which expresses your will, is faithful to your aspirations, and cares for your interest — discovered that the Iranian regime insists on its aggression, adopts the course of deception and delusion, and adheres to the course of injustice and crime, it said through the nation's knight and hero in confronting the enemies and who also embodies its good deeds, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn — may God preserve him — that we will destroy their economic arteries that supply them with the means to carry out their military aggressions. Our brave fighters have always told their hero leader: Just order us and you will find us obedient, loyal soldiers. We do not fear death and we can turn it upside down, just as you like, O beloved, glorious leader.

Today, as in past days and as it will be in the future, our men fulfilled their promise, because a free man's promise is a debt. O lofty Iraqis, a great number of our aircraft climbed the skies at 1100 [0700 GMT] today to simultaneously drop their bombs on the following targets deep in Iranian territory:

1. With God's help, a devastating blow was dealt to the Mobarakeh iron and steel factory in the Esfahan area. The bombs of our hawks scored direct hits on their targets.

2. At the same time, another number of our aircraft dropped their bombs on the power station southwest of the city of Esfahan.

3. At the same time, a number of our planes were pounding selected targets in the Marun oil fields, setting them ablaze.

4. At the same time, a number of our aircraft were pouring their bombs on selected targets in the Ramhormoz oil fields, setting them ablaze.

5. At the same time, a number of our planes were once again dealing a blow to the sugar factory in Shushtar to prevent the enemy from repairing it.

6. A number of our aircraft dealt a devastating blow to a large maritime target in the tanker holding area east of the Khark Island at midnight last night.

7. A number of our planes also dealt a devastating blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 0207 [2207 GMT on 31 August].

After our brave hawks carried out all of these missions with their usual skill and courage, they and their aircraft returned safely to the homeland carrying news of victory to their beloved leader and to all of you, O Iraqis.

O citizens, we announce to the international public that the activities of our Air Force are aimed at economic targets and oil supplies, which are certainly one of the main sources that aid the aggressive nature of the Iranian regime. We will continue to strike at these targets as long as the war continues. However, if the Iranian regime accepts Resolution No 598, the war ends, and peace is achieved, then the Iranian regime will have spared the Iranian peoples' blood and saved the Iranian economy. This is the only means to avoid the destruction of Iran. Therefore, we warn them to consider the matter carefully while they are at the door of a very cold winter instead of committing follies that will only bring them further destruction.

Blessed be our heroic Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks for these glorious victories. Praise be to God, the best of helpers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 September 1987

3d 'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN011101 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1051 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Statement issued by military spokesman on 1 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Further to our Communique No 2,805 issued today, with God's help, a devastating blow was dealt to a large maritime target near

the Iranian coast at 1220 [0820 GMT] today. It is the third target in approximately 12 hours to be dealt a blow by our heroic Air Force. After carrying out their mission, our aircraft returned safely to the homeland, praise be to God.

[Dated] 1 September 1987

Plane Denied Downed in Combat

JN011250 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1238 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA) — Iraq has denied the downing of any of its aircraft that raided maritime, economic, and other Iranian targets today. An official spokesman told INA a short while ago that a dogfight did not take place as Iran claimed, and that no Iranian plane dared approach the Iraqi aircraft. The spokesman affirmed that all Iraqi planes safely returned to base after successfully carrying out their missions.

Saddam Husayn on UN Security Council Resolution

JN291757 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1505 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to a group of Iraqi students studying in Kuwait at a meeting in Baghdad on 29 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] We are pleased to meet you as Iraqis, as youths, and as Arabs continuing your study to gain knowledge in a neighboring, fraternal country. During your visit to your country, relatives, and friends, you have seen your country under war circumstances. Certainly, you have noticed that the country is experiencing a normal life and working as if there were no war. It is also preparing for war and performing its national duty on the battlefield as if it is devoting its life to victory. Life has been going on this way since the first day of the war and its material and spiritual elements are being developed while the hero Iraqi soldier is performing his national duty in the best possible manner. The determination of the Iraqis and their leadership is clear regarding the balanced handling of life and the confrontation of challenges which are aimed at halting life in your country, halting the new significance of life. [passage omitted]

Whenever an initiative appears on the horizon of peace, Iraq will work with it effectively and will accept it to a point where the evildoers in Iran imagine that such an effective, positive response to peace initiatives implies a concern for the future or is a sign of weakness. In accordance with this worn-out mentality, they always misinterpret Iraq's capilities. However, Iraq surprises them and forces them to think in a realistic manner. I strongly believe that beginning with Khomeyni and ending with all of the policymakers in Iran, whenever they recall their imaginary thinking they curse their way of thinking and fortune because they have been involved in a delusion for 7 years. In fact, they were deluded even before the war began; they misinterpreted the true value of the Iraqi people.

In accordance with this course, which is adopted by Iraq to achieve peace because it basically realizes that war is a state of emergency and not a natural law of life, even if life necessitates this state from time to time for the sake of defending values, existence, and sovereignty, we have responded to UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and welcomed it as an indivisible whole. We have announced that our acceptance of implementing the resolution depends on Iran's acceptance to implement the resolution as a whole, as an indivisible part, and with good intentions.

The Iraqi leadership discussed and examined all of the resolution's clauses. Some of our brothers in the leadership expected the Iranians to reject the resolution from the beginning in their same declared past way of rejection. However, we said no; this time the Iranians will neither accept nor reject the resolution because a general and particular analysis of their situation allows us to deduce that this time the Iranians will neither accept nor reject the resolution. They will, however, employ tricks. Therefore, we said it is our duty to prepare plans and means to prevent the Iranians and the conspiratorial sides sympathizing with them from easing the task for them of tampering with the resolution and procrastinating to gain time without giving a clear answer.

Our conclusion was exactly according to expectations. This was confirmed by their recent official statements in which some of them stated they neither accepted nor rejected the resolution. There is no such logic in life. One who neither accepts nor rejects is an inanimate being, but man accepts and rejects. Clearly, such replies and clamor are caused by their serious dilemma. Their real feeling is that they cannot continue with the war in an aggressive, expansionist manner because this is rejected by the world and even by their own people. [passage omitted]

Our principles are firm. First, we will fight forever to defend Iraq and the Arab nation's values, security, glory, and life. We do not allow any infringement on these principles, either directly or indirectly. If these principles are guaranteed and they respect other sides, then we will agree to peace regardless of the other sides' strength, whether weak or capable. In accordance with this and as we have said, we welcomed Resolution No 598. However, the Iranians seek to gain time in the hope that it will bring about favorable developments allowing them to pursue their aggression. However, no matter what they attempt, time is against them. Whether they openly reject the resolution or play with words, whether they continue their aggression or halt it, time is against them. Perhaps if they stopped their aggression and agreed to peace they would be able to tackle the problems that will inevitably lead to collapse unless they tackle these problems wisely and accurately. The treatment of these problems can only be achieved under conditions of peace.

For our part, and without responding to the desires or plans of any party, we suspended operations of our Air Force and our Navy against Iranian targets, to give diplomacy its role and those who want to work [for peace] the opportunity to act within a political atmosphere. We are not just eager to destroy dignity; we are merely eager to make the Iranians abandon the dilemma in which they entangled themselves through obvious, well-known arrogance and contentious and erroneous statements. If they want a token excusethat does not encroach upon our national interest, then we are not against this. We will not give them the cover but we will oppose it. If they want to say we were not

defeated in the face of Iraq but in the face of the world, and that the entire world desires peace, then we will say that this is fine. However, they were actually defeated and they procrastinated. In fact, the Iraqi people can defeat them at any time whether they like it or not.

Some of them say that Iraq suspended its naval operations in response to the advice of the United States. However, if we really respond to orders you would not have attacked us. Those who respond to orders from outside are known, and you have excellent relations with them whether they come from the region or from outside it. They realize what kind of Iraq this is, and that is why they launched an aggression against it. [passage omitted]

However, after giving them all of this time and a sufficient excuse, they should have made up their minds by now. Those who wish to seek cover can borrow sufficient time to find a cover. They will not be able to continue playing games, export their oil from the Gulf at their ease, or purchase weapons to direct them against the Iraqis' chests. From now on, we will attack them at sea. We will attack them and destroy all of their economic lifelines that supply them with the means of aggression. If it happens and they accept Resolution No 598 and are seriously willing to implement it in its entirety, we will implement it. If they do not completely implement it without any delay — that is, if they delay the release of one POW — we will order the Air Force and ground forces to strike them.

The entire resolution must be implemented. After all of the games that were played against some Arabs in the past, we will not allow this to happen to us. The resolution begins with one paragraph, not two, not A and B. One paragraph: withdrawal, cease-fire, and withdrawal to internationally recognized borders. Thus, we will not accept a cease-fire alone; this is impossible. We will continue to attack. We will accept a cease-fire that is part of the operation to facilitate the process of withdrawal for a known, defined, and short period of time. If we grant this known, defined, and short period of time and they do not withdraw to internationally recongized borders, then we will attack them. Moreover, if they withdraw to international borders and do not return the POW's, we will also attack them. This resolution is an integrated one. [passage omitted]

We are not the kind of people who are tamed by 7, 70, or 10 years. We are pacified only by our conviction that our people's rights are guaranteed, that the dignity of our nation is safeguarded, and that our land is liberated and its sovereignty is unquestioned. If God desires this war to continue more than 7 years, we must perform our national duty as dictated by our conscience and the honor of our responsibility. The official who receives a blow and does not retaliate should be punished by the people. These have been our principles since we began struggle a long time ago. Have we discarded or forgotten them? The official who does not safeguard his people's honor against foreign occupation should be pursued by the people. This also applies to us. Therefore, how can we allow Iran to tamper with part of the Security Council resolution at the expense of our people and their security and territorial integrity? We will never ask our people to pursue us. We will never relinguish our responsibility. Our principles dictate this.

International circles may concentrate on the possibilities of negotiations on the resolution's other points if the Iranians agree to a cease-fire. By this, these circles will separate the cease-fire issue from the overall resolution. This is dangerous and we will view it as being directed against Iraq. The Iranians are required to accept a cease-fire, withdraw to international borders, and implement all of the other points. This is the meaning of the resolution, and any fragmentation of it will harm Iraq. Therefore, Iraq will retaliate. [passage omitted]

Please convey our greetings to our Kuwaiti brothers — the Kuwaiti men and women. Our Kuwaiti brothers' position is a firm one. Our people and government take pride in this position, which has disappointed the Iranians. The Iranian regime underestimated Kuwait just as that regime underestimated Iraq. Tell the Kuwaitis that Iraq will retaliate for any bullet fired from Iran. This is how we view our relations with any honorable Arab — their security is part of our security; their honor is part of our honor, and their happiness and stability are part of our happiness and stability. Any harm to their stability, security, national honor, or sovereignty will be viewed as harming all of these values in Iraq. Therefore, we will attack the side that wishes to harm these values.

Tell all honorable Arabs who want to hear about Iraq that Iraq is strong with God's help and is also capable, but without vanity. This is our constant slogan, which you have heard and read about: strong without being arrogant. It is an old slogan: I believe it has existed since 1974 and 1973. These are our principles in life; our values do not change. Our experience and knowledge may increase, but the basic principles will remain firm. Convey our greetings to all the Arabs and Kuwaitis in Kuwait. Tell them that they will hear good news about the protection of Iraq and the Kuwaitis. Convey our best regards to your families. Whenever you miss your country, visit it so that you can see your country well.

Tariq 'Aziz Letter to UN's Perez de Cuellar

JN292015 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Iraq categorically rejects the twisted and nonobjective logic that explains Iran's stand as not meaning a rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 on halting the war which was issued on 20 July. [passage omitted]

In a letter he sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today, Tariq 'Aziz said Iraq welcomed Resolution No 598 in spite of the fact that it contained no personal gains except that of acknowledging a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with international law and the UN Charter. [passage omitted]

The text of the letter follows:

Your Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, United Nations, New York:

Your Excellency, I have the honor to point out that Your Excellency is well aware that Iraq has welcomed the initiative you announced on 13 January 1987 — that the UN Security Council discusses the question of ending the war between Iran and Iraq at high political levels.

It is also known that Iraq has highly appreciated the UN Security Council permanent members' initiative toward seeking a comprehensive settlement of the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran on the basis of the UN Charter. Iraq hastened to contact the five UN Security Council members and other member countries, whether at the individual level or through the Arab League, to express its interest and to voice constructive viewpoints on the issue. When the basic provisions of the draft resolution prepared by the five UN Security Council permanent members became known and when they began to discuss the issue, Iraq participated in these discussions in a constructive manner.

As soon as UN Security Council Resolution No 598 was issued on 20 July 1987, Iraq welcomed it. On 23 July 1987, I personally met with Your Excellency in your headquarters in New York and communicated to you Iraq's response in a letter dated 23 July 1987.

Official statements at the highest levels of power in the Iraqi Government were issued welcoming the resolution and expressing Iraq's readiness to implement it with good intentions in cooperation with the UN Security Council and with Your Excellency.

It is important to stress that Iraq's approval of the aforementioned resolution has taken place from the premise of its firm principled stand: its desire to establish peace with Iran in accordance with the rules of international law and the UN Charter. It is no secret that Iraq has reiterated this stand since the Iranian regime began its aggression against it on 4 September 1980. Iraq expressed this stand by welcoming the resolutions and the initiatives that were issued by the UN Security Council and Your Excellency, and by undertaking sincere and constructive cooperation with the UN Security Council and Your Excellency for establishing peace.

It is also necessary to explain that Resolution No 598 of 1987 does not contain any personal gain for Iraq except its acknowledgement of a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the rules of international law and the UN Charter. All of the UN Security Council members also know that the viewpoints and stands of the other party were taken into consideration when the resolution was formulated.

Some UN Security Council members even exerted persistent efforts to introduce a number of the illogical and illegal Iranian stands in the draft resolution without having any advance guarantees that Iran would accept the resolution.

The resolution was passed 40 days ago. An objective assessment of the Iranian stand on the resolution shows that Iran has rejected this resolution. I have already mentioned in my letters to you dated 10 and 16 August 1987 that any other interpretation of the Iranian stand is not based on a legal foundation. The official Iranian reply communicated to you on 11 August 1987 contains indications clearly showing that Iran rejects this resolution.

This Iranian reply also represents selective treatment in a way that constitutes a clear repetition of the course Iran adopted toward the conflict, before the resolution's issuance, for the sake of continuing the war. The UN Security Council and the international community have rejected this course and insisted on a comprehensive handling and settlement of the conflict. I have also clearly pointed out that the binding nature of Resolution No 598 for 1987 necessitates that the UN Security Council members implement this resolution as an indivisible whole and in letter and spirit, and reject any selective treatment of its clauses. Any other method of handling it would strip it of its comprehensive and its binding nature to its parties, the UN Security Council members and staff, and the other UN members. I also said that it is very strange to see attempts made and aimed at peddling a precedent that a state "neither accepted nor rejected" a binding UN Security Council resolution in violation of all legal bases, since this constitutes a dangerous precedent at the United Nations.

I would like to stress that Iraq categorically rejects this twisted, nonobjective logic that attempts to show the Iranian stand as not satisfied with the resolution. The lack of official Iranian Government acceptance of the resolution and the lack of a readiness to comprehensively implement it constitute actual rejection of the resolution. Moreover, recent contacts Iranian representatives held with you and with several UN Security Council members confirm this conclusion and prove that the Iranian side is procrastinating. We do not believe the UN Security Council adopted this resolution, which has a binding nature, in accordance with Articles 39 and 40 of the UN Charter, in order for it to be examined by the two sides for an unlimited period of time. Our concept and that of all objectivesides in the world is that this resolution was issued in order to be implemented as soon as possible, and that all the resolution's provisions, particularly paragraph 10, are clear in their implications

After the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution on 20 July, and as an expression of its appreciation for the UN Security Council's efforts to achieve peace in the region, the Iraqi Government deemed it necessary to reduce the military activities of its Armed Forces at sea, in the air, and on land, with the exception of urgent cases necessitating the requirement of defending the homeland. When I met Your Excellency on 23 July, you expressed your desire to reduce these military operations for the sake of facilitating your mission to implement the UN Security Council resolution. We have also heard this desire expressed by other UN Security Council members.

Based on our respect for you and for the UN Security Council, and in appreciation of the relations of friendship and mutual respect binding it to the UN Security Council members, Iraq has attached serious importance to these desires. Despite the very evident cheating that Iraq was exposed to and that was not denied by any of the states we have contacted, Iraq exercised a policy of self-restraint and halted its attacks on Iranian interests on land for 24 days and at sea for 45 days, as of 15 July 1987. This is despite the fact that these interests are considered a major source of financing the aggressive Iranian war machine. We sincerely and objectively wished to give Your Excellency the opportunity

to explore the other side's stand toward the resolution and to convince it to accept and implement it.

Today marks 40 days since the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution. During this period, the Iranian regime carried out 23 armed aggressions against Iraqi territory; 47 attacks on cities, villages, and purely residential areas; and 10 aggressions against Iraqi naval installations. These are all verified in the appendix of this letter. Moreover, the Iranian regime has continued to beat the drums of war to carry out further aggressions against our country. In fact, it is preparing to carry out major offensives as it did in past years with the objective of occupying and destroying Iraq. This is confirmed by senior Iranian officials' statements. The Iranian regime's aggressive war against the Iraqi people and the Iraqi Armed Forces is continuing as strongly as ever despite the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 for 1987.

In light of the Iranian regime's hostile acts against Iraq and its clear position which rejects UN Resolution No 598, and in light of the serious dangers jeopardizing Iraq's security, sovereignty, and its citizens' lives, there is no longer any justification for ceasing strikes against Iranian interests that serve the Iranian military effort. Any call to stop striking these interests means serving the hostile Iranian military effort against Iraq and countries of the region.

Iran's success at freely pursuing its interests in the Gulf means — as proven by the 7-year experience of continued aggression against our country — the availability of the money needed to operate the hostile Iranian war machine and, consequently, the killing of more of the Iraq people's sons, occupying more Iraqi territory, and increasing regional tension and instability. No responsible government can accept this. However, the UN Security Council members and the international community know that Iran has always tried to partition the war. It has called for ending Iraqi attacks against Iranian interests while insisting on continuing the war against Iraq. Iraq rejected partitioning the war. The international community also rejected this through Resolution No 598, which calls for a comprehensive end to the war.

Iraq's continued suspension of strikes against Iranian interests in the Gulf practically leads to the aggressor Iranian regime's attainment of its goals. Iraq, which accepted the UN resolution since it calls for a comprehensive solution to the dispute and respect for the international community's will, cannot accept a situation leading to the partitioning of the dispute in a way that presents a great prize to the side that insists on the continuation of war, aggression, and sabotage in the region; that rejects the UN Security Council resolution; and that challenges the international community's will. Such a situation completely conflicts with UN Resolution No 598 and with the will of the international community, which is represented in the call for a comprehensive end to the war.

We hope that you and the friendly UN Security Council members, with whom we have cordial relations, will understand our legal, logical, and practical stand and support it. Efforts must focus, without any hesitation or deviation, on exerting pressure on the aggressor to halt its aggression and respect the will of the international community, as represented by Resolution No 598. Moreover, the provisions of the Seventh Chapter of the UN Charter should be quickly and unhesitatingly applied to the Iranian regime because of its rejection of Security Council Resolution No 598 and its defiance of the international community's will.

Among the clear matters that were previously explained and clarified to the UN Security Council members, to you, and to the international community through various channels is that Iraq is subjected to continuing Iranian aggression.

On the other hand, and in accordance with the firm provisions of international law on the right of self-defense, Iraq is attacking Iranian interests. International laws and norms give the right to attack these interests in case of an armed conflict. The Iraqi Armed Forces' military activities in the Gulf region have been restricted and will continue to be restricted to these interests. The Government of the Republic of Iraq believes that this licit Iraqi activity, which is based on international laws and norms, is not related to the principle of freedom of navigation in international waters. Iraq respects this principle and is very eager to preserve it since geographically Iraq is a country that stands to suffer according to the provisions of the International Law of the Sea. Please accept my deepest respect.

The letter was accompanied by an appendix that contained detailed information on the armed Iranian aggressive operations against Iraq since the issuance of Security Council Resolution No 598 on 20 July. These operations include armed attacks against Iraqi territory in the Majnun oil field, Al-'Amiq Port, and other areas in northern and southern Iraq, as well as Iran's shelling of purely residential areas in Iraq.

Tally of Iranian 'Aggressions'

JN300732 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Aug 87

["Text" of Appendix No 1 to Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz's 29 August letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar]

[Text] The Iranian armed aggressions against Iraq since the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 on 20 July 1987:

20 July — two armed attacks on the southern Majnun oil field and one armed attack on the Iraqi coast in Hawr al-Hawizah.

21 July — an armed attack by three groups on the southern Majnun oil field.

22 July — an armed attack on the Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port.

26 July — an armed attack on the Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port.

3 August — an armed attack on the Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port.

4 August — an armed attack on the Iraqi Al-'Amiq Port.

5 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

6 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

7 August — an armed attack on the Chuwartah area.

7 August — an armed attack on the southern Majnun oil field.

7 August — an armed attack on the eastern Halabjah area.

8 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

10 August — an armed attack on Al-'Amiq Port.

12 August — two armed attacks on Al-'Amiq Port and an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

14 August — an armed attack on Al-'Amiq Port.

15 August — an armed attack on the Qal'at Dizah area.

16 August — an armed attack on Qal'at Dizah.

16 August — an armed attack on Al-'Amiq Port.

17 August — an armed attack on Qal'at Dizah and Al-'Amiq Port.

20 August — an armed attack on Qal'at Dizah.

24 August — an armed attack on Qal'at Dizah.

Shelling of purely civilian residential areas in Iraq since the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 on 20 July 1987:

20 July 1987, Basra — one injured.

23 July 1987, Basra — one injured.

23 July 1987, Bimilak housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — seven injured, including three women; houses damaged.

24 July 1987, Basra — houses damaged.

27 July 1987, Qal'at Dizah — seven martyred and five injured.

27 July 1987, Qazaniyah — two injured and houses damaged.

29 July 1987, Basra.

29 July 1987, Basra at night.

31 July 1987, Khawr al-Zubayr.

1 August 1987, Bimalik complex in Qal'at Dizah — one martyred, nine injured, and houses damaged.

3 August 1987, Basra — houses damaged.

5 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — two injured and houses damaged.

7 August 1987, Basra.

7 August 1987, Basra — houses and property damaged.

9 August 1987, Basra — houses and property damaged.

9 August 1987, Bimalik housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — three martyred, including a woman, and five injured, including a woman and three children.

11 August 1987, Basra — four civilians injured and a civilian car damaged.

11 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — houses and property damaged.

13 August 1987, Bimalik complex in Qal'at Dizah — one civilian injured.

15 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — some houses and property damaged.

16 August 1987, Al-'Uzayr — some houses and property damaged.

On 16 August 1987, Biyarah — houses and property damaged.

On 16 August 1987, Qazaniyah — houses and property damaged.

On 17 August 1987, Basra — three martyred and five injured; houses and property damaged.

On 17 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — one injured.

On 18 August 1987, Basra — houses and property damaged.

On 18 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — houses and property damaged.

On 18 August 1987, Al-'Uzayr — houses and property damaged.

On 19 August 1987, Basra.

On 20 August 1987, Basra — two martyred and 24 injured, including 3 women and 2 children.

On 20 August 1987, Qal'at Dizah — one injured; houses and property damaged.

21 August 1987, Bimalik housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — four martyred, including a child, and four injured, including a woman and a child; houses and property damaged.

22 August 1987, Basra — three martyred and five injured; houses and property damaged.

22 August 1987, Dahuk, Sumayri area — 12 martyred, including 8 children and 2 women, and 23 injured, including 15 children and 4 women; houses and property damaged.

22 August 1987, Al-Sulaymaniyah — three injured, including a woman; houses and property damaged.

22 August 1987, Al-Majar District — 1 martyred, 11 injured, including a woman; houses and property damaged.

22 August 1987, Basra — 5 martyred, including 1 woman, and 45 injured, including 4 women and 4 children; houses and property damaged.

23 August 1987, Basra — 11 martyred, including 2 women, and 47 injured, including 4 children and 3 women; houses and property damaged.

24 August 1987, Basra — two injured.

24 August 1987, Bimalik housing complex and Sir al-Din village in Qal'at Dizah — one women injured.

26 August 1987, Basra — houses and property damaged.

26 August 1987, Basra — one injured.

26 August 1987, Bimalik housing complex in Qal'at Dizah — houses and property damaged.

27 August 1987, Basra — houses and property damaged.

27 August 1987, Basra — two shops, government warehouses, and houses damaged.

28 August 1987, four villages in Qal'at Dizah — one injured.

28 August 1987, Basra.

RCC Officials Leave on Official Saudi Visit

JN011002 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0933 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Sep (INA) — 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman, left Baghdad for Riyadh today on an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

'Izzat Ibrahim's accompanying delegation comprises Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, RCC member; Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, interior minister; Nuri Isma'il al-Ways, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and a number of officials.

Implications of Cabinet Decision on Lavi Explored

Peres Opposes New Vote

TA311458 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Goni Savir in the studio — live]]

[Text] [Ro'e] Good evening, Mr Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Ro'e] We would first like to talk about the development, or rather the new possibility: Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] workers have proposed — and the prime minister did not rule this out of hand — to hold government elections again. Is this serious?

[Peres] I am afraid this will create false expectations. It is unprecedented in the government's work, and I also cannot see how a new vote will change the decision made.

[Savir] Do you think this is a practical possibility?

[Peres] I do not know of a precedent for such a thing.

[Ro'e] Do you think this is lawful and appropriate?

[Peres] I think this will introduce new norms; every time somebody will ask for an additional vote on government decisions.

[Ro'e] Can there be anything new in the lengthy decisionmaking process regarding the Lavi that might change anything in the vote?

[Peres] I do not think so. I must be responsible and state this clearly.

[Savir] The IAI workers do not accept this decision and you are probably familiar with their reactions.

[Peres] Certainly. I understand them. However, I believe that the proposal that was accepted will save the IAI in both the short and long term. I know that many people in the IAI ask why we changed our opinion, why I changed my position — they forget that the change did not originate in the government or the cabinet members. The change was initiated by the General Staff, which said that we have a new battlefield with which we must cope. They asked to change the budgetary priorities, saying that there was no alternative to this. When I heard this from the General Staff members and the defense minister, who summed up the General Staff's stand, I searched for a way to prevent harm to the technological capability of the IAI and how to avoid mass dismissals. I did this together with the defense minister and the finance minister, and we reached the optimum position that is the most responsible and best thing for the IAI. If the IAI has to argue with the defense establishment and the United States for the next 10 years over $480 million annually, when the United States supplies the funds and when the defense establishment determines the priorities and when the Treasury states that it is contrary to the economic policy — this argument will be repeated every year. Moreover, all the funds will go to production and there will be no funds left for developing systems in the future.

[Ro'e] Mr Peres, it seems that you owe an answer to those who ask you why you have changed your position during the last 2 weeks. What happened between the time you stood with Shamir and today?

[Peres] I have not changed my opinion. I was in favor of the Lavi and the IAI. I came to see that there is a conflict of interests between the two things, between the existence of the IAI and the continuation of the Lavi, and for the last 2 weeks I worked day and night, as best as I could, to create an alternative that would ensure the existence of the IAI with its many capabilities and great talent.

[Savir] There are those who spoke in the last 24 hours of early elections; others say that the Alignment's chances have suffered a serious setback because of your attitude.

[Peres] What am I to do? Do you think we should have preferred the Alignment's chances to the good of the country? Can anybody say that we did this out of electoral considerations? Would anybody propose to a party such as ours to prefer the party's good over the good of the country and its security, to the good of the IAI? What kind of talk is this. Why are you not ashmamed even to repeat them?

[Ro'e] We just wanted an assessment, a reaction.

[Peres] I gave you an assessment.

[Ro'e] We do not necessarily agree with those who say this.

[Peres] I just reacted to this assessment. My argument is not with the remark itself but rather with those who made it.

[Ro'e] Would you like to use this opportunity to address the IAI workers who are in such dire straits?

[Peres] They are in dire straits and there is a real problem. I do not want to downplay it. However, there is also a baseless exaggeration here, such as the announcement made today regarding the dismissal of 6,000 people...

[Ro'e, interrupting] 3,000 people...

[Peres] 3,000 and then another 3,000.

[Ro'e] Is thid not accurate?

[Peres] The Defense Ministry has already denied this. There is no such intention. Let me put this simply: Israel spent $209 million annually on the Lavi. The Defense Ministry has promised not to cut this sum at all this year and next year to allot $100 million for research and development of new systems. Approximately 4,000 to 5,000 people were employed on the basis of the sum of $200 million, so $100 million will enable us to employ at least half of this number. However, if we succeed in receiving more work from the United States, as I hope will happen — and when the defense minister was in the United States he was

promised an additional sum of $250 million worth of work, more then the entire sum of the Lavi — $150 million is for the continuation of the offset for the next 2 years and another $100 million for converting dollars to shekels for work in Israel. Therefore we must view the picture in its entirety. True, this was a difficult decision. Sometimes hard decisions such as the economic plan — and this was also difficult — save the economy.

I sincerely hope that this decision — and I understand the depth of pain entailed by it — will ensure a future for the IAI. I call upon the IAI directorate and members to start forming a future, because we are not talking here about degeneration and relaxation. We are talking about a change that all countries have to undertake — a change from complete production of a plane by one country to cooperation between various countries on the plane. The Lavi was also this kind of cooperation, because the engine and wings are American. Let us proceed with systems in which we are strong; let us unite with other countries to develop the plane of the future — this on top of our own independent planes.

Rabin Defends Decision

TA311930 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Studio interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky and Elimelekh Ram — live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening, Mr Rabin.

[Rabin] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] Following all you have heard on the television news, do you have second thoughts regarding your decision to stop the Lavi project?

[Rabin] No. I made the decision following long deliberation, following an attempt to proceed with the Lavi project. I have reached the simple conclusion that there is no alternative. It is as simple as this: employment versus the IDF's strength if a war is forced on us. Let me illustrate this with clear figures. The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] submitted to the government a plan to become more efficient according to which the production of 90 Lavis in the next 10 years will cost $4.8 billion above what has already been invested. We can purchase more than 70 F-16c planes for $2.2 billion. We estimate that the cost of closing the Lavi project is approximately $400 million. This means that in comparison to the production of 90 Lavis, we will have $2.2 billion left for strengthening the IDF, and instead of the 90 Lavis, we will have 70 F-16c's, which belong to the same class as the Lavi. Should we then allocate $2.2 billion for employment purposes or give the IDF soldiers weapons that will ensure victory for the least painful price? This is the question, and I, as defense minister, believe that my highest moral duty is to the sons of the IAI workers, to the sons of the mothers and fathers of Israel, to the IDF soldiers — to give them the best selection of weapons as soon as possible, whether they are Israeli-made or not.

In any case, the money that will be converted from the United States for work in Israel will not only not decrease, there are actually chances that following the cancellation of the Lavi, it will be increased. This will be channeled to purposes other than the Lavi.

[Shlonsky] Mr Minister, does this really mean that the IDF alternatives are indeed entering high gear, or — as claimed by the IAI people — there are no alternatives, that this is only a trick to stop the Lavi and now we will wait several years before it will be possible to employ people in these alternatives?

[Rabin] Let us be more specific concerning the IAI. Today the IAI produces equipment worth more than $1 billion, out of which $209 million goes to the Lavi. This means that for more than 16,000 IAI workers the Lavi affair has no ramifications. This year the entire $209 million will remain in the hands of the IAI. Next year $100 million will be allocated in addition to other sums that are currently being checked, to implement those IDF alternatives that can be produced by the IAI. Not all the IDF alternatives can or should be produced by the IAI.

We should recall that the size of the IDF was cut painfully. Some 7,000 people, career army staff and civilians working for the IDF, have been dismissed. To date 7,000 people have been fired in security-related industries. The economic justification for these cuts can be compensated only if we give the IDF high-quality weapons in the fields of sophisticated, nonstandard weapons. I admit that it is difficult for us to explain what kind of sliding [as heard] bombs we are developing, what kind of electronic weapons we are developing — so that our fighter planes will indeed be able to operate in the battlefield of the future — what kinds of antitank means, and what kinds of other means. The difficulty in the public information sphere is that we want to keep our own unique weapons, which are indeed the fruit of our own development. Today we are publicizing these weapons and they are being admired, and if we have any chances of selling something to the United States it is only from our own special weapons. We will not unveil them just for information purposes.

We can expose the Lavi, but the special weapons that will decide the next wars — more than the difference, if one exists, between the Lavi and the F-16 — this is what we want to invest in. A defense minister, a General Staff, and a government which fail to see this are not fulfilling their duty toward the security of the country, even if the decision is painful.

Permit me to add that this government has made three important decisions: In January 1985 it decided to leave the Lebanese quagmire; in July 1985 to rehabilitate the national economy with the economic plan. Now we made a painful decision which in the long run will also heal the IAI, because otherwise it will be an IAI built on tatters, because we will not have the financial capability to implement our desire to develop the Lavi — and it is an excellent plane.

I estimate that there will be no more than 2,000 to 3,000 dismissals in the foreseeable future. This will not happen immediately; the Defense Ministry has asked the IAI at this point not to dismiss anybody. Before the government's decision we could not work with the IAI — I did not want to put the IAI directorate in a position of having to sit with us before a decision was made and plan this whole complicated thing of what parts of the Lavi

project will continue — and some parts will continue, particularly the sophisticated parts that have additional uses. Not the plane's body — this is not the part that takes great knowledge; and in any case the engine, the wings, and the tail are being developed in the United States and were to be produced in the United States, not in Israel.

I talked today with the director general of Elta about the field of electronics and I see possible directions...[changes thought] In Elta, which is the electronics industry, 308 out of more than 2,000 people are working on the Lavi, and I believe that we will manage to preserve most of those jobs as well. Therefore, for the good of the IAI it is preferable that instead of the riots — with all the pain entailed, and I understand the feelings of the IAI workers [changes though; sentence as heard].

I do not understand those in the government who voted against the withdrawal from Lebanon, against the economic plan, and against the three most important decisions made by this government — difficult and painful decisions that have returned Israel to what it was, a sane country. To deal with the really important issues instead of the ostentatious things, not to treat a weapons system with national pride — have we changed the national priorities? Are the IDF soldier and Israeli youth not the objects of our national admiration? Are these the producers and traders of Israeli arms? Are we to be proud of these or of the IDF soldiers? Where are our national educational values? Therefore let us sit together and search for a way to carry out this decision in the least painful way for the people whose pain I understand.

[Ram] Mr Defense Minister, allow me to ask you several questions in the political sphere. We heard that the prime minister does not intend to bring the Lavi issue to a new vote, if it transpires that there is no change in the ministers' position. If there is a change in the ministers' position, do you believe that a new vote is a correct procedure in our administration?

[Rabin] I do not want to answer hypothetical questions and I do not want to deal with this matter. I regret that the issue has been raised, because it is like pouring fuel on the fire. The government has decided, albeit with a small majority. Now we must implement this. We cannot drag it out because it will hurt mostly the members of the IAI as long as we sit and figure out how to do it with as little pain as possible — and it will hurt.

You have to believe me that it was painful for me to fire 4,500 career army personnel who received minimal compensation as stated in the law, who were sent home after a service period of 10, 15, and 20 years in combat units and as technicians. Do you know that today the IDF needs 600 engineers and 1,000 technicians? I wish that people were willing to come to work in the Air Force and the IDF, both as citizens and army personnel. I believe that other industries can also absorb workers, but first we have to find the way to make the most out of what has been developed in the IAI. Believe me, there are things that the IAI today cannot produce from the IDF alternatives. Their development has been completed, but they cannot produce it. Sledgehammer [Qurnas]-2000 can be enlarged; the rate of repair work on sledgehammers for the Sledgehammer-2000 can be facilitated. There are dozens of projects that can be started. We have to sit down and work on this.

[Ram] Mr Rabin, you viewed with us the demonstrations and heard the shouts of "Peres go home" on the news. What about the electoral consideration, has it ever crossed your mind?

[Rabin] As defense minister my first consideration is Israel's security. Today I am responsible for the security of the IDF soldiers and their families, and it is my responsibility to ensure that the best possible use is made of the given defense budget so that now, or in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 years the IDF soldiers will possess the equipment necessary to win wars. The IDF's test is deterrence from war and a decisive victory if it is forced upon us. I believe that the alternatives to the Lavi that we are planning, and I cannot disclose all of them — there will be rejoicing in the Arab states if we relate what we have and can give to the IDF soldiers. I will make the decisions mainly on the basis of my military and security experience.

Shamir Criticizes Labor

TA011122 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Sep 87 p 13

[Text] In an interview with *Yedi'ot Aharonot* yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that only a real change in the balance of power will make a second vote on the Lavi issue possible:

[Yedi'ot Aharonot] Is Minister Arens postponing his resignation because of the chances of a second vote?

[Shamir] Many people are trying to convince Arens not to resign. Even Arabs have appealed to him. He is flooded with appeals and letters even from abroad not to resign. Arens is a man who enjoys great prestige and who contributes a lot to the government. We cannot allow him to leave. I believe that all of these factors must influence him.

[Yedi'ot Aharonot] So far you have not reacted officially to the government's decision.

[Shamir] It was a wrong decision that harms Israel's interests and technological development. It was a severe blow to Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. It was not an essential decision, not economically and not from a security viewpoint.

[Yedi'ot Aharonot] Why has the United States been so eager to put an end to the Lavi project?

[Shamir] The United States has also halted the development of combat planes in Canada and Japan. This is its policy. However, as far as we are concerned, let me state that the reports on the United States' desire to dissolve the project were exaggerated. Had we continued with the production of the Lavi, this would not have harmed our relations with the United States.

[Yedi'ot Aharonot] Has the government decision exacerbated relations between the Likud and the Alignment, and between Peres and yourself?

[Shamir] I do not like to speak in personal terms of Shamir-Peres. However, the government decision undoubtedly introduced ten-

sion into the national unity government, especially because the Labor Party politicized the issue. At this point I see no cause to impair the government's functioning.

[Yedi'ot Aharonot] Were you disappointed with Minister Nisim's vote against the project?

[Shamir] Nisim's vote proves that I did not enforce a vote on political lines. I appreciate his work as finance minister very much, but I obviously disagree with his position.

Shomron Cites New Projects

TA311805 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Israel's chief of staff says the IDF is already prepared to issue immediate orders for new products to Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] and other factories involved in military production. Speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron added that within 2 months the Army will have completed a new multiyear program which will be geared to the military options now available to defense planners, and will include a full range of development projects to equip the IDF for the battlefield of the future. More details from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] The chief of staff says that although there may be some drop in work orders for the IAI, other military plants will see more work coming their way and the defense establishment, he says, will do everything it can to help IAI weather the crisis it's going through and to see that work or alternative jobs will be found for employees at IAI and for those who will have to leave.

His assessment, based on Labor Ministry figures, is that only a small number — he wouldn't say exactly how many — will be forced to leave the IAI, with most of those, he believed, being absorbed into other plants that will now get more work orders from the IDF. He says the IDF itself will face cuts in its ranks in order to free money and resources for the weapons and equipment which the General Staff sees as essential to maintain a quality lead in Israel's favor should there be a need to fight in the future.

Most of the projects we intend to see developed and produced in the future involve significant advances in military weapons and systems which do not exist anywhere in the world today, said Gen Shomron. Many have already passed the development stage but were being held for lack of funds. Others were systems connected with the Lavi. All will now be given the go-ahead and the money required for their production. The chief of staff said these include weapons and systems for all branches of the IDF. The Air Force will be getting, for example, 75 F-16c fighter planes from the United States at a flyaway cost of about $30 million each. There will be improved attack helicopters, other equipment, and what he said would be a number of very special items which will significantly advance the Air Force's fighting capability. Israel's Navy will be getting new vessels and improved systems, although perhaps not all the submarines and missile boats it has hoped for. The ground forces too can expect to see advances in artillery and in other major weapons systems. Overall, Gen Shomron envisages a new and better era opening up, not only for the IDF, but also for Israel's military industries. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 31 August 1987 broadcasts a shorter report on Lt Gen Shomron's press conference. In it, the correspondent reports Shomron as saying that "There will now be greater employment in Israel Shipyards, Tadiran, Elbit, Elyisra, the Armament Development Authority, and in the military industries. On the other hand there will be a decrease of employment in the Bet Shemesh Engines Factory and the Israel Aircraft Industries, but the IDF will help the IAI."]

Qeysar Fears Plan 'Too Vague'

TA310446 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar says he fears the plan of Vice Premier Peres to funnel $100 million into Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] is too vague and will not be implemented. The Histadrut supports the Lavi, and Qeysar said if the alternative had been thoroughly explored by the workers at IAI, it is likely that IAI would have more readily accepted it. Sabra Chartrand reports:

[Begin recording] [Chartrand] Despite his party leadership's near-total consensus against the Lavi, Labor Party Histadrut Secretary General Yisra'el Qeysar said his position on the project remains unchanged. Its death, he said, leaves an uncertain future for technology and employment in Israel. No one, Qeysar warned, knows how Foreign Minister Peres' planned alternative to the Lavi will be implemented. An operational plan, fully explored, should have been devised by the government and the aviation industry before the decision to cancel the Lavi was taken, Qeysar said.

[Qeysar] After this decision, I think that the difficulties of undertaking those alternatives will be even more difficult, because now some of the elements who wanted to stop the Lavi got their request, and [there] should be somebody who will be interested in making those alternatives that Shim'on Peres is talking about to be more effective. And unfortunately, I am afraid that after the decision to stop the Lavi, there will be not so many vested interests of somebody who now will create those alternatives to be very effective.

[Chartrand] This afternoon's demonstrations on the roads around the IAI complex by the factory's workers and further threats by the employees to protest at the Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv and to block the runways at Ben-Gurion Airport were not sanctioned by Qeysar. We cannot be indifferent to the possibility that 4,000 to 5,000 workers will lose their jobs, he said, but the Histadrut opposes any illegal activity. [end recording]

Effect on Elections Analyzed

TA311335 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Aug 87 p 2

[Commentary by Shlomo Naqdimon: "Wait for the Rerun of the Election Broadcasts"]

[Text] It is possible that the decision to stop the Lavi in fact launched the election campaign for the next Knesset. In view of what Ari'el Sharon said yesterday, Shim'on Peres will again become the Likud's main object of attack. The pictures of the demonstrations staged at the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] yesterday and the actions expected in the future — according to reports by the workers' committee — will probably be screened during the Likud's election broadcasts.

It was the IAI people who, in pressuring for the continuation of the project, said that they and their family members account for five Knesset seats. They thus tried to convince the two large parties that their election votes will detract power from the party responsible for scrapping the Lavi. In a country with such a delicate political balance as Israel's, even a single seat may cause tremors, let alone five.

In theory, these five seats should now be moving to the Likud. However, elections (if they are held on time) will take place in over a year from now, and early forecasts such as this one have proven false more than once in the past. On the other hand, it is reasonable to assume that Peres, as the person who shoulders most responsibility for yesterday's Cabinet decision, would like to be a shock absorber, seeking to prove that his proposals hold water.

There is no telling what events we are to expect until election day. There may surely be events that will obliterate the Lavi affair from people's consciousness.

However, since the next election campaign is expected, as everyone agrees, to be hot, and since it is difficult to assume that the IAI will regain its status quo ante by then, Peres yesterday, paradoxically and involuntarily, supplied the Likud with first-rate election ammunition.

Political Correspondent's Scenario

TA311701 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami believes the chance for holding another vote on the Lavi is very slim. The prime minister will run the risk of dissolving the government and inviting enormous pressure from the Finance Ministry, the defense establishment, and the U.S. Administration if he brings the Lavi issue for another vote which will have to rely on a new balance of voting power in the Cabinet. Over to 'Oded Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] This evening it is possible to draw the following scenario. The prime minister, for reasons of his own, decides to have another vote in the Cabinet. One reason can be due to a changed opinion of one of the ministers who supported Peres' proposal in yesterday's vote. Mr Shamir will then come to the Cabinet and say: Let us vote on Peres' proposal again. Shim'on Peres will then say: I insist that the issue be passed on to the Inner Cabinet for a decision. According to the coalition agreement it was agreed that either of the sides can transfer any issue to the Inner Cabinet with the other side's consent. This is anchored in the government's regulations. The issue will then be passed to the Inner Cabinet, and the agenda will feature a proposal by the prime minister to reject Peres' proposal. What the Alignment bloc will then have to do is to raise five hands to counter the five Likud hands, with the tie shooting down the new proposal.

The beginning of yet another scenario is similar to the one above, but according to this one the moment Mr Peres demands that the issue be passed on to the Inner Cabinet, Mr Shamir will refuse, thus leading to the dissolution of the government.

On the matter of university tuition fees, the prime minister held another vote, but neither side was interested in barring such a vote at that time. At any event, it seems that the chance for holding another vote on the Lavi is very small and may take place only if the prime minister is convinced he has a clear majority, and if he is prepared to risk the existence of the government in return for the continuation of the Lavi and U.S. pressure. [end recording]

Shamir Agrees to Saudi Participation in Conference

TA011021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that he will agree to include Saudi Arabia in the regional peace conference that he proposes, this in addition to Israel and its neighbors. The prime minister spoke with U.S. Senator Albert Gore who is visiting Israel. Mr Shamir says he has proposals and ideas about how to reach an understanding with Jordan and expressed his confidence that there will be negotiations with this country as well as with Palestinian representatives.

USSR's Primakov Optimistic on Bilateral Ties

TA311355 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Aug 87 p A5

[Report by Washington-based correspondent 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth]

[Text] "Relations between our two countries are certainly improving — after all, we are standing here talking..." This was said by Soviet Professor Yevgeniy Primakov to the *Ma'ariv* correspondent in Washington, when the latter wanted to hear his opinion about the progress in contacts between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Primakov, head of the Moscow Oriental Studies Institute, evinced openness in a conversation held with Israelis during a unique party held in Washington Sunday evening.

At the same party another senior Soviet diplomat told the *Ma'ariv* correspondent the following concerning contacts

between his country and Israel: "We will have diplomatic relations; perhaps not full relations, perhaps not immediately, but there will be progress."

He added that the problem was that "there are a lot of factors" preventing the Soviet Union from accelerating the rate of rapprochement with Israel.

Primakov told Dan Patir, head of the Van Leer Institute for Peace in the Middle East, that it was Israel that had missed all the opportunities for improving relations with the Soviet Union so far. He believes that the greatest opportunity missed was during the summer of 1977, when the Soviets and then President Carter's administration discussed the possibility of reconvening the Geneva conference.

In Washington it is assessed that the next step in Israeli-Soviet contacts will be during the expected meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Soviet counterpart Shevardnadze, slated to be held during the UN Assembly in New York next month.

The Soviet personalities were guests at a party hosted by Washington hostess Esther Coopersmith in honor of a high-level Soviet delegation ending its visit in the United States.

The party was attended by Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state.

Interest Offices Accord To Be Signed With Hungary

TA010435 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Hungary and Israel will sign an accord next week opening interests offices in Budapest and Tel Aviv. The agreement, to be signed next Monday, marks a resumption in diplomatic ties between the two countries, broken off after the 6 Day War in 1967. Hungary's deputy foreign minister has notified Knesset Deputy Speaker Aharon Nagmias that the opening of the interests offices is just a first step in establishing binational ties. The Voice of Israel's political reporter says Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Hungarian counterpart will meet at the end of this month when the United Nations General Assembly meets in New York. Among Eastern bloc countries Poland and Romania already have diplomatic representations in Israel.

Mossad Sources Downplay Corruption Allegations

TA010802 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Sep 87 p 2

[Text] Allegations of widespread corruption in the Mossad which were published last week in the monthly *Monitin* are based on a ten-year-old affair which involved the misuse of less than $1,000 of the agency's funds, sources close to the agency said yesterday.

The sources said it was regrettable that "internal Mossad politics" had spilled over into the press, tarnishing the agency's image and creating discontent within the service.

The Mossad, they added, may have its share of petty pilfering — which exists to some extent in all goverment bodies — but the hints in *Monitin* of widespread corruption were grossly exaggerated.

Artillery Chief Views Improvements in Arab Armies

TA282022 Tel Aviv BAHAHANE in Hebrew 26 Aug 87 p 12

[Interview with Chief Artillery Officer Brigadier General Shmu'el Reshef by Eldad Yaniv; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Yaniv] The Arab countries have recently equipped themselves with many precise artillery weapons. What does this mean for us?

[Reshef] The major threat facing us is Syria, which has gone through a revolution with regard to everything connected to artillery warfare and increased the quantity and quality of its artillery weapons. The Syrians put into service mobile artillery that can hit more targets with greater speed. Fire-control and target locating and measuring means have become more sophisticated. The Syrians today can concentrate several hundred artillery batteries on the Golan Heights, the practical meaning of which is a firing ability of up to 1,000 shells per minute.

The Jordanian Artillery Force has also gone through a revolution. Some of their weapons are more modern than those possessed by the IDF today. The Jordanians are also going to receive modern target locating means enabling them to discern the source of all our firing toward them. They are also going to get 155-mm shells with a range of 16 km.

Significant improvements have also taken place in the Saudi and Iraqi artillery forces. If an overall war is launched, we may come up against a threat the scope of which we have not known to date.

Al-Masri Discusses Peace Conference, Gulf War

JN311952 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that all the contacts His Majesty King Husayn is holding with his brother Arab leaders confirm the need to reach a unified Arab position on all issues preoccupying the region, particularly the Palestine question and the Gulf war.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri attended a press meeting today held by the Press and Publication Department. He referred to the absence of Arab solidarity which made these issues take root and prevented suitable international backing. He stressed the Arab failure to adopt a strong pro-Iraq position has led to the current situation. He pointed out the lack of progress toward an international peace conference is due to the Israeli rejectionist postion. He said it is not due to developments in the Gulf war which recently attracted everyone's attention. He pointed out the chances for a conference are not deadlocked yet. He said: The Soviets support a peace conference, but the U.S. position must change. He said there is a good chance for convening an Arab summit conference. This matter will be clarified when the Arab foreign ministers meet in Tunis on 20 September.

He continued: The resolution reached by the Arab foreign ministers during their recent meeting in Tunis urges Iran to accept UN Security Council Resolution No 598 which stipulates ending the war between Iraq and Iran. He said the foreign ministers' resolution embodied what Jordan has been stating for a long time, namely, that the war must end and that a position supporting fraternal Iraq should be adopted. He added he will visit the PRC next Friday in his capacity as chairman of the Arab seven-member committee which is entrusted with ending the Gulf war. A call will be made there for convening a conference to be attended by foreign ministers of the UN Security Council member countries. This conference would discuss ending the war and would follow up the UN Security Council resolution in this regard. He pointed out there is international unanimity on ending the war before it escalates and expands. He stressed the need to continue pressuring Iran to change its intransigent position. He said Jordan views the Iranian response to the recent UN Security Council resolution as a rejection of the resolution. If some sides do not see the Iranian response as negative, Iran will then have to say yes or no. He pointed out Jordan supports the Soviet Union's call to discuss the subject of military fleets stationed in the Gulf,in case there is an alternative for guaranteeing freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf. He said: The Soviet Union intends to play a role in the Gulf but faces U.S. opposition and resistance in this regard. He noted the next stage will witness increasing rivalry between the two superpowers in the region as each tries to increase its presence there. He said the next point of rivalry between them will be in the Indian Ocean and the Indian subcontinent. He said: The Mecca riots during the pilgrimage, Iran's provocation of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and Iran's impeding of tanker movements in the Gulf are cogent evidence of Iran's hostile intentions.

The meeting was attended by the Information Ministry under secretary, the director of the Press and Publication Department, the doyen of the Press Association, the director of Jordan Television, and many members of the press.

King Leaves for Syria on 'Brief Working Visit'

JN011012 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn left Amman today for Damascus on a brief working visit to Syria during which he will hold talks with his brother, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, within the framework of continued coordination and consultation between the two Arab leaders on the current Arab situation and bilateral relations. The king was seen off at Amman airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the chief of the royal household, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, several senior officials, and the Syrian ambassador in Amman. The king is accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

'Informed Sources' Say Terry Waite 'Still Alive'

JN010727 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0655 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Sep (WAM) — The newspaper *Al- Ittihad* has said that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who was kidnapped in West Beirut on 20 January, is still alive and receiving good treatment from his kidnappers in the place where he is being held which is somewhere in Beirut's southern suburb.

The paper quoted informed sources in Beirut and which are close to the kidnappers as saying that the kidnappers allow Waite, who has recently shaved off his beard, to follow all international developments on the radio and television, and that a doctor visits him from time to time for routine health checks. The sources said that only a very limited number of the leaders of the organization which kidnapped Waite know his whereabouts.

To Be Released Within 10 Days

LD011529 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1444 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Beirut, 1 Sep (KUNA) — Regional pressure is expected to be successful in gaining the release of British Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite after a detention that has lasted more than 7 months at the hands of armed Lebanese militia.

Security sources told KUNA today that Waite will be freed in less than 10 days, adding that strong pressure had been put on the kidnappers and that Waite was to be released 2 days ago but obstacles had been set up at the last minute, which are now being tackled. [passage omitted]

The security sources did not name the regional quarter that is undertaking the mediation for the release of Waite, but it is widely believed that this quarter is Syria — which last week secured the release of U.S. journalist Charles Glass — which is working behind the scenes for the release of other foreign hostages. The sources said that Waite was detained in the administrative area of Beirut and that he has been well treated by his kidnappers, adding that the Anglican bishop always acquaints himself with the latest world news through British newspapers, which he receives intermittently, and a small radio set. He also has several books which he reads now and again. [passage omitted]

President al-Jumayyil Arrives in Paris 31 Aug

JN010631 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Paris today on a 24-hour private visit after which he will leave for Canada. President Al-Jumayyil arrived from Algeria. Our correspondent in Beirut, George Bashir, reports on President Al-Jumayyil's talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid:

[Begin Bashir recording] President Amin al-Jimayyil's talks in Algiers with Algerian officials, including President Chadli Bendjedid, were within the framework of the Arab and international efforts the Lebanese president decided to make to persuade senior Syrian officials of the need to help the Lebanese Government and regime find a national reconciliation formula and form a new government that ends the boycott and works toward resolving the economic and social crisis, which is almost causing a war of famine in Lebanon.

The extent of the success achieved by President al- Jumayyil in that regard is not yet known in Beirut. He will continue his efforts during his meetings in Quebec, particularly with French President Francois Mitterrand and with His Holiness Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on his way back to Beirut. The Lebanese president is also scheduled to hold meetings in New York toward the end of next month during the forthcoming UN General Assembly session with Arab foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. George Bashir in Beirut. [end recording]

Departs for Montreal

JN011229 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil left Paris today for Montreal to attend the Francophone summit scheduled to begin in Quebec on 2 September.

Caller Threatens Iran Over Al-Sadr Disappearance

NC010554 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] A foreign news agency in Beirut reports that it has received a telephone call from an unidentified person claiming to speak on behalf of the Al-Sadr Brigades. The caller demanded that Iran present an official and public request to Libya to release Imam Musa al-Sadr. He also threatened Iranian officials, saying he would publish documents proving their involvement in the imam's disappearance within 15 days.

The Libyan news agency JANA has strongly criticized Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri, describing him as murderer of Palestinians and an agent for Israeli intelligence, Mossad.

JANA noted that Libya has repeatedly stated that it was not responsible for Imam Musa al-Sadr's disappearance in 1978, contrary to allegations by the Amal Movement.

Birri Offers Israeli Pilot for Palestinians

NC311539 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The Amal Movement held a ceremony in the city of Tyre today on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr. [passage omitted]

Speaking on the occasion, Attorney Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction, said: [passage omitted] Imam Khomeyni is my master and my imam. He says that the Saudi and Kuwaiti citizens, as well as the citizens of other countries, must be protected because they are a trust in our hands. They must not be attacked. It is strange that some [clergymen] should imitate Imam Khomeyni, but also in fact contradict him.

Minister Birri added: I experienced the opportunity of a lifetime when Imam Khomeyni received me. He told me: Imam al-Sadr is my son, student, and friend. Al-Qadhdhafi will not be able to come to Iran if he does not bring Imam al-Sadr with him. How then have they permitted themselves to deal with Al-Qadhdhafi? The name of a Shi'ite has become synonymous with terrorism, whereas it really is a crown of the struggle and resistance. A very fine thread separates terrorism and the struggle, and we must not cut it. [passage omitted]

Minister Birri expressed his readiness to exchange the [captive] Israeli pilot for the Palestinian detainees in Palestine. [passage omitted]

Further on Speech

Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] The sectarian regime must be abolished by adhering to Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, freedom, and independence. We support the Palestinian revolution, provided that it is directed toward Palestine and not the south. Jerusalem, O Abu 'Ammar, refuses to be liberated other than at the hands of the faithful. Do you know this or not? The south was and still is the key to the solution. We support the UNIFIL, and any attack against them is an attack against the resistance and the homeland.

With these words, only a small part of the total, Nabih Birri, minister of the south and Amal leader, began his speech at the rally which was held in Tyre today on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr. The rally was attended by an estimated 1 million people, made up of clergymen, national leaders, and popular delegations from Beirut, the southern suburb, the south, and Al-Biqa'.

Minister Birri said: The first true resistance against the Israeli enemy was born here in Sidon. On this day, the anniversary of Imam al-Sadr's disappearance, we want to state our stand frankly. Israel is the primary enemy, and our conflict with Israel is one of existence. Israel is a danger to the Arabism of Lebanon. I want this to be well understood. Lebanon is tied to its Arabism and if it dies, Lebanon will die. Israel is a religious enemy of Islam and Christianity, and it is more hostile to Christianity than to Islam. In this framework, I address myself to our Christian brothers in the border strip, appealing to them to unite and confront Israel's plans in Jazzin and throughout the south.

Minister Birri demanded that the roads between Jazzin and Iqlim al-Tuffah be reopened, saying: The Amal Movement is a guarantee for all the Lebanese, including the Christians, who have the same rights as the Muslims. It is important to open the road to Jazzin and its neighborhood for operations against the army of agent Lahd. Dealing with Israel will only result in separating the Lebanese from each other.

Birri called on the Christians to resist Israel, because resistance is the only way to liberate the land. We must, he said, endure more and steer our life toward more hardships along the path of martyrdom. Birri added: The south has been and still is both the key and the lock. It is the key and lock to the future. Let Israel know that what is required is its unconditional and unrestricted withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories.

Birri said further: We continue to support the UNIFIL, who watch over our rights and the continued existence of our people on their land. Any attack against the UNIFIL means an attack against the resistance and homeland, and, consequently, against man himself. Enough trading with religion. With due respect, not everyone who wears a turban becomes a scholar; not everyone who dons a turban has acquired the knowledge of the scholars. Enough attacks on the UNIFIL.

Ministeb Birri demanded an end to political sectarianism, calling for the maintenance of coexistence in Lebanon and its Arabism. He also demanded adherence to the UN resolutions and to the resistance against Israel, saying: The slogan is resistance, not terrorism. A very thin thread separates terrorism from the struggle. We must not cut it. We are not against the peoples, but the rulers of the peoples are against us.

What is happening in the Gulf? Minister Birri said: There is a U.S. attempt to install missiles in the area in order to confront the Soviet Union. This attempt is being made under the pretext that Iranian missiles have been installed. In this way, the flag of imperialism has been hoisted over the Gulf's ships.

Therefore, we must not cut the thin thread which separates terrorism and resistance. Let Israel realize that we will fight with all our strength.

Amal Convoy Ambushed on Sayniq Bridge 31 Aug

NC311516 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1345 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] An armed ambush was laid for an Amal Movement convoy on the Saynig Bridge near the Al-'Alamah gas station. A clash, which is still going on, followed the ambush. The convoy was on its way back to Beirut from Tyre at the conclusion of the rally that was held there today on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Sidon

NC010723 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Israeli warplanes have continued their reconnaissance sorties in Lebanese skies, breaking the sound barrier over Sidon this morning.

Lebanese Prayer Leaders Seek Muslim Unity

LD290906 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 29, IRNA — Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, speaking in the Friday congregational prayers in Beirut said that the economic crisis in Lebanon has mainly political implications.

The power-mongers, he told worshippers, mean to exploit the situation for attaining a vantage status. The anger of the Lebanese people who are stricken by economic crisis should be directed at those behind this plot, he said.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of the Tawhid Movement [Islamic Unification Movement], speaking in Friday prayers in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, talked about imperialist plots against the Muslims of the region. He described the July 31 Mecca massacre of the pilgrims as one such plot.

The Mecca massacre he continued, could by no means be overlooked. It is a disgrace for Muslims to have governments which put their resources at the disposal of the U.S. and the Zionist regime and at the same time harrass Muslims.

Shaykh Sha'ban said that the hajj rituals as a grand Islamic congress could help rally world Muslims at a single and unified rank.

The blood of the Muslims shed in the holy city of Mecca, he pointed out, is a warning to Muslims against schism and factionalism.

Unidentified Gunmen Kidnap 5 on Airport Road

NC310846 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0745 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] In a new manifestation of the lack of security along the Beirut Airport Road, which is under Syrian occupation, six citizens were the targets of a kidnapping operation today.

Eight gunmen in a BMW chased a car heading from the museum to the airport, ordered driver Abd al-Rahim Hasan Ayn out, and took the car and its passengers to an unidentified destination. Sabri Bakli and Josephin Hayk were later released, but the fate of the three other passengers is still unknown. They are Kamal Aqqad; Dr Zbuni, a Middle East Airlines physician; and Captain Ilyas Hawwa.

Strikers Halt Flights

NC311155 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Beirut Airport employees went on strike today to protest the kidnapping of Middle East Airlines employees by gunmen on the airport road before noon, bringing air traffic to a halt. [passage omitted]

It has been reported that movement is limited to the landing of incoming flights: No planes are taking off.

Amal Frees Employees

NC311317 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Dhree kidnapped Middle East Airlines [MEA] employees, Dr Alfred Zbuni, Pilot Hanna Hawwa, and Chief Accountant Kamal Aqqad, have been released following searches by Amal Movement members. The Amal members found the three and escorted them to the airport, accompanied by Amal official in charge of security Bassam Tulays and Syrian Major Adnan. Three other kidnapped MEA employees, Abd al-Rahim Hasanayn, Khayri al-Bakri, and Josephine al-Hayik, had been released earlier.

Explosion Near Central Bank Causes No Damage

NC010841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] The explosion in West Beirut this morning, heard on the street where the Bank of Lebanon is located and in the Al-Hamra area, was the result of a dynamite stick thrown in a garbage pit near a building housing displaced persons and the home of former Prime Minister Taqyy al-Din al-Sulh in al-Qantari. No damage has been reported.

Amal Releases 18 Palestinian Detainees

NC291212 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] The Amal Movement released 18 Palestinian detainees in Tyre at 1400 today.

Amal-SSNP Clashes in Al-Biqa' Continue 31 Aug

NC312018 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1945 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] According to security reports, several areas in the western Al-Biqa' were the scene of clashes today between the Amal Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]. Along with heavy material losses, two people were reportedly killed and several others wounded on both sides. The clashes, which involved the use of various types of weapons, took place in the areas of 'Aytanit, Mashgharah, Yuhmur, and Suhmur. The two sides reportedly brought in reinforcements from outside the western Al-Biqa' region, raising fears that the clashes could expand.

The reports also stated that a number of Syrian intelligence officers went to the scenes of the clashes to calm the situation and resolve the problems. They threatened to use force in order to stop the clashes, but tension has nevertheless continued.

SSNP: 'Isolated Incident'

NC311010 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0945 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The areas of 'Aytanit, Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Al-Qantarah are tense in the wake of clashes until dawn between the Amal Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]-'Isam al-Mahayri Faction. Two persons were killed and 11 others wounded in the clashes. [passage omitted]

Associated Press has reported that a unit of the Syrian occupation Army in Ba'labakk intervened but failed to resolve the matter.

The SSNP issued a statement today acknowledging the clashes and describing them as an isolated incident.

The official who read the statement stressed alliance with the Amal Movement.

4 Reported Killed in Attack on Israel-SLA Position
NC291705 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1635 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] A UNIFIL officer has stated that a joint Israeli-SLA [South Lebanese Army] position in the vicinity of the townshiptof Yatar came under artillery and rocket bombardment this afternoon, killing four personnel. He said that Israeli and SLA soldiers fired at Yatar while Israeli helicopters opened machine-gun fire at an area under the control of the Nepalese UNIFIL contingent.

Najib Addresses Konduz Party Conference

LD302325 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Speech by Najib, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, at the Konduz Province Party Committee Conference on 29 August — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and dear sisters, esteemed religious leaders, proud youths of the homeland. It is a pleasure for me to meet with you on this sunny day. Every one of you, undoubtedly, has come to this meeting with one question, and that is on what will be said at this meeting. I believe it would not be wrong to say that all of you want to hear one word, peace.

People of proud Konduz, we have come here to you with this word, peace. [applause] What do our elders, our children, and our dear ones want from us? Schooling, books, the kindness of parents. Who wants to be disabled at the age of five? Who wants to be ill and orphaned? Who wants this? No one. If you ask your children what hopes they have, what they desire, they would say they need peace.

I address you esteemed sisters and mothers, you Malalis and Zarghunas [historical Afghan heroines] and I ask what you want. Do you want a tranquil atmosphere, a peace so your children will be prosperous and healthy and smile with confidence to your motherly eyes? Do you want peace so that you will be able to look at the eyes of your children every day with kindness and hold them in the embrace of your motherhood? Or, God forbid, do you want to become widowed, wear black head scarfs, or have your orphans shed tears for being orphans? What do you want? Together with me, you will raise your voices for peace and tranquillity.

We ask the ulema and esteemed prayer leaders: For what do you vote? What is your opinion on peace and war? They will reply to us that the word peace has been mentioned in the holy Koran more than ten times, more then ten times. God shows his aversion to war. Peace and blessing as slogans have been put before the Muslims.

Peasants and workers who are present at this meeting, I look at your eyes, I see your hands. Your hands are used to building [words indistinct], working on the land, and irrigating the land. These hands do not want to cause explosions. These hands do not want to kill. They want peace, peace for creativity and growth.

Dear youths, the future of our prideful country, what do you want? Those things that your parents want, that is, peace to create a family life.

Finally, we should say that our people are weary of war and are drowning in the ocean of their relatives' blood. They want peace. I ask: When I speak the word peace, do you agree with it? What do you want? What do you want, dear compatriots? [crowd chants "peace"]

No one will consider himself prosperous until peace is established in our country. Not you, not I. As the years since the revolution pass, it becomes more necessary for us to defend it against domestic and foreign enemies. The forces of imperialism, reaction, and counterrevolution want to deprive the people of Afghanistan of their sacred right, that is, to resolve their own problems. They want to draw the people into a long, fratricidal war, because war brings them benefits and (?each year) provides them with opportunities to plunder and kill.

We are confident and we have full faith that with each passing day, each hour, and each month, the noble and brave people of our country realize the truth and, finally, as you have demonstrated just now with your voices which represent the voices of all Afghans, that we want peace, we are near peace, and we will defend peace. [applause]

During these 8 years, the extremists and the opposition have not built a single school, a single mosque, a single canal, or a single factory in our sacred land. However, they have blown up thousands of peaceful establishments. Therefore, who cares about our people? We or the extremists? Those who build schools, hospitals, mosques, farms, and factories or those who destroy and devastate all these facilities? We are lucky that we are at the people's front, at the people's service. The people want peace. The people demand an urgent peace without delay from the country and party's leaders. We hear the voice of the people. Therefore, we follow the policy of national reconciliation, which produces its fruits without [words indistinct].

During the last 7 months, 1,350 villages have been liberated peacefully with the assistance of the people and by consulting the people. At present, around 9,000 villages, that is, nearly half the residential villages, as well as 45 cities including all the centers of the provinces, and 212 districts and subdistricts are under the control of the people and under state power. The consolidated system of the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, that is, the creation of the National Reconciliation Commission with the participation of our people and even with the participation of representatives of the opposition forces, is growing. The work of the National Reconciliation Commission continues to improve. Their status and their representation are increasing. They include 100,000 patriots, including 6,000 representatives of the opposition. The system of the local self-managing [khod gardani] coalition bodies is improving.

Despite the interference of the Pakistani and Iranian authorities, the number of the returnees has increase notably. At present, 83,000 emigres have returned home. The armed opposition groups are returning to our side.

For the first time in the history of our country, we, together with all the people, are discussing and expressing views on the draft constitution. Discussions on the constitution are continuing all over the country. The draft has been welcomed by the people. The general feeling of our people is that the draft constitution, which will be the reconciliation constitution and will bring about the legal foundation for the coalition government and multiparty system, will be approved very soon. This is the demand of our people. During the course of discussion on the draft constitution, many questions and proposals have been presented. There has never been such fervor and enthusiasm. All this is very pleasing and shows that the draft is being formed by the people. It reflects

completely their demands and their interests. Therefore, we are proud of the fact that we will have a constitution that belongs to our people.

All these political activities of our people demonstrate their increased awareness and enlightenment and their patriotic feelings, and show the true support of the people for party and state policy based on national reconciliation. The revolutionaries should understand from the animated discussion on the constitution that the people have become interested in forming their constitution.

You are familiar with the draft and you must have been briefed on it. For example, in the first draft the sacred religion of Islam has been described as the religion of Afghanistan's people. There is a guarantee of, respect, and protection for all religious sanctuaries in the draft. Another example is the parliamentary system, mentioned in the draft, through which people can elect their representatives from districts, subdistricts, cities and provinces. Moreover, the political policy of governments should be endorsed by the people's representatives and by the votes of the people's representatives. Therefore, democracy in real terms, that is, by the people and for the people, will be implemented.

The multiparty system has been mentioned in the draft. This means that not only the PDPA but all other political parties — those existing or those which people might want to set up, from the Islamic party, peasant party, bourgeoisie, democrats, the left — all national, democratic political forces can take an active part in Afghanistan's society as political parties with equal rights in the political struggle to promote social and political democracy.

We have discussed changing the country's name. There are proposals that our country should be renamed with its previous name, the Republic of Afghanistan.

We must always remember that on behalf of the firm resolve of the people of Afghanistan, this draft has been put forward by the PDPA. Moreover, the PDPA has the duty to organize wide discussion in this regard and present it in a worthy manner to the Grand Assembly for its approval. This is are plan. [applause] With a clear voice we announce to the enemies of reconciliation that their efforts are in vain. You are doomed to defeat in every way. We are stronger today than ever before. Fearlessly, we shall strive for our great humanitarian goal, that is, peace. We will make every effort toward the speedy growth of a united and strong party, a party whose members think only about, the prosperity [words indistinct] of the homeland and the people.

Seven months have passed since we began the struggle for reconciliation. What ideas have the seven party alliance, the opposition and the counterrevolution put before the people? None. Why? Because they do not think about the people, because there is no other thinking that is more fruitful than reconciliation and the maintenance of peace, because this idea is Islamic and the people of Afghanistan are Muslims, because Almighty God states in the Holy Koran: Truly all Muslims are brothers; then make peace between brothers. Elsewhere in the Holy Koran it says: If two parties of the faithful start killing each other, you must make peace among them.

Noble people of Konduz, some 40 days ago our talks with M.S. Gorbachev took place. During the talks all issues concerning Afghanistan were comprehensively assessed. Attention was directed to the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan and the measures to accelerate its expansion and consolidation. In all matters discussed, we had a complete unity of opinion. Both sides are acting on the basis that the solution of the situation in Afghanistan and around it can only be achieved through national reconciliation. There is other alternative for peace.

M.S. Gorbachev said that the people of the Soviet Union and the Soviet leadership completely understand and support the efforts of the party and state leadership of Afghanistan concerning the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the consolidation of the party. The Soviet Union is the friend of Afghanistan and its people and it will remain so. The political, moral, and material assistance of the Soviet Union will also continue in the future for the cause of national reconciliation and the general development of Afghanistan. Decisions and measures to expand cooperation on a scale which embraces all of Afghanistan, between the provinces of the DRA and the republics and provinces of the Soviet Union, are effectively and nobly shared by the Soviet Union [words indistinct]. The consolidation and defense of the eternal friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union is the duty of every party member, every patriot. In the future, the Soviet Union also will extend all necessary assistance toward the success of the policy of national reconciliation and the further consolidation of Afghanistan as a country with national sovereignty, neutral and non-aligned, and for its all-round prosperity.

Dear compatriots, you have made your choice in the interests of peace. Work in tranquillity. Learn, live. Your life will be defended and protected by our Armed Forces. Remember that the party and state always think about you and are making every effort to give you a better and prosperous life. We know that a series of questions bother you. Today we shall discuss how we can solve these problems and questions in the interests of the people in Konduz Province. We shall hold the assembly of cotton growers in your province. We will assist the toilers of the Spinzar Company. We should complete our assistance on national questions and education and training.

Dear friends, you will hear with happiness the [words indistinct] of the Spinzar Company which asks you to work and learn. May every day be a day of good work, good learning, a day of good health for you and your family. I will struggle with you for peace. Almighty God, our conscience and honor, our friends, our northern neighbor, are with us in this sacred struggle! We will be victorious. Thank you. [applause]

'Extremist Elements' in Qandahar Crushed

LD312033 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpts] *Bakhtar* reports that, as a result of successful operations by the country's security forces, extremist elements in the district of Maywand, Qandahar Province, were crushed in their hideout.

As a result of these successful operations, which were carried out following several requests made by the national reconciliation commission of Qandahar Province, a number of criminals belonging to the so-called Islamic Party of Afghanistan including their notorious leader, Muhammad (Hamza), were crushed.

Six of their hideouts, including two big arms and ammunition depots were destroyed. [passage omitted]

According to another report a large amount of arms and ammunition belonging to the extremists, which had been placed in (Alukhel) village, (Musai) District, Lowgar Province, were discovered recently with the cooperation of people of the region.

Karachi Cites Reports on Mujahidin Activities
BK310255 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] According to reports, Afghan mujahidin killed a large number of Soviet-Kabul troops and destroyed many vehicles in several attacks recently. The reports say they attacked (Sirin) District with rockets early this month, killing 26 Soviet-Kabul troops and destroyed many armored vehicles.

Other reports say that mujahidin destroyed a post of Soviet-Kabul troops in Faryab Province, killing more than a dozen Soviet-Kabul troops.

Gandhi on Bofors, Drought, Socialist Policy

BK291600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has called upon Congressmen to be strong and alert to the dangers facing the country. He said we cannot remain blind to the forces of destabilization which are active both within and outside the country. He was addressing the concluding session of the national convention of the revived Congress Socialist Forum in New Delhi this evening.

Mr Gandhi affirmed that his party will continue to follow the socialistic path shown by Mahatma Gandhi and Jahawar Lal Nehru. He said the party should take stock of its successes, weaknesses, and shortcomings to correctly assess the tasks aheard.

Mr Gandhi said the Congress is committed to fight corruption. There will never be a shielding of corrupt people.

Referring to the Bofors deal, he said the party is not afraid of the truth as we have nothing to hide. We have opened everything to the parliamentary committee. He alleged that those who make the loudest noise are running away and they lay more trust in foreign agencies. He said the party will fight these forces and expose them.

Describing the drought as one of the biggest challenges, Mr Gandhi said public distribution system will be strengthened and employment program for the poor implemented strictly.

U.S. Congressmen's Human Rights Charge Refuted

BK311612 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] India has described as totally false the allegation by some U.S. congressmen about violations of human rights in Punjab. Commenting on reports that 17 U.S. congressmen have asked their ambassador to the United Nations to raise the issue in some UN fora, an official spokesman said their letter to their ambassador was based on (?mispresentation) of the situation in India. He said the free political society in India gives full scope for dissent and debate. However, as a democratic society, India cannot tolerate subversion of people's freedom by terrorism and extremism.

The spokesman added that these misinformed congressmen are out of tune with the views of the U.S. Government in combating terrorist activities directed against India.

Energy Minister Dedicates Soviet-Aided Coal Mine

BK010442 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0200 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] The 185-crore rupee Jhanjhar coal mine in West Bengal was dedicated to the nation yesterday. It will be the largest underground mine in the country. On completion in 1995, the mine is expected to produce 3.5 million tons of coal. It will provide employment to over 3,000 people.

Speaking on the occasion, the union energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, said the project is a unique symbol of Indo-Soviet friendship. Mr Sathe also laid the foundation stone of a 700 crore rupee thermal power project of the Domodar Valley Corporation at Mejia in Bankura District in the state. The thermal plant will have three units with a capacity of 210 megawatt each. The first unit is expected to be commissioned in 1991.

8 Uttar Pradesh Congress-I Legislators Suspended

BK311304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, eight Congress-I MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] have been suspended for antiparty action. They are the former minister of state, Mr Jafar Ali Naqwi, Mr Mohammad Aslam, Mr Jaidev Singh Brar, Mr Udayvir Singh Rathor, Captain Baldev Singh, Mr Arun Pratap Singh, Mr Bhola Singh, and Mr Syed Ali Ashrafi. They were suspended on the recommendations of the chief minister, Mr Bir Bahadur Singh.

Violence, Clashes Continue in Punjab State

'Dreaded Terrorist' Killed

BK311610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] A dreaded terrorist, Anup Singh Babbar, the accused in the transistor bomb blast in Delhi, was killed in an encounter with police in Amritsar this morning. Babbar had escaped from police custody from Ludhiana in February last. He carried an award of 1 lakh rupees. One Chinese assault rifle and large quantity of ammunition were recovered from him. Two persons were killed and four others injured in two separate incidents in the state today.

5 Terrorists Arrested

BK010906 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] In Punjab, police arrested five hard-core terrorists and six others, who were giving shelter to them, in various parts of Faridkot District last night.

According to the district police chief, one foreign-made revolver and five pistols, and a large quantity of cartridges were recovered from their possession. The terrorists confessed to their involvement in looting of petrol pumps and robberies.

In another incident, terrorists shot dead one person in a village near (Chabbal) in Amritsar District.

Iraqi Plane Downed in Dogfight Over Persian Gulf

LD011058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Two Iraqi Mirage Jets were hit by Islamic Republic Air Force pilots during a dogfight over the Persian Gulf at midday today. Another Zionist enemy plane was the target of anti-aircraft fire by the fighters of Islam in the sky over Khuzestan at 1038 and crashed. The reports received indicate that one of the planes hit over the Persian Gulf waters during the dogfight crashed but the other plane left the area in flames. There is no information available on the fate of this plane and its pilot.

Forces Suspend 'Reprisal Shelling of Iraqi Targets

LD311747 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — Iranian forces stopped their reprisal shelling of Iraqi economic, industrial and military centers at 16:00 hours local time (12:30 GMT) Monday, announced a ranking military commander of Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters today.

The commander warned that if Iraq resumes its acts of mischief Iran's Muslim combatants will again shell enemy economic, industrial and military targets in Al-Basrah as well as other key Iraqi centers.

Iraqis Warned To Evacuate Economic, Industrial Areas

LD011109 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] The War Information Headquarters has issued a statement asking the Iraqi people living near military, industrial, and economic centers in that country, to leave those regions as soon as possible.

Referring to the resumption of atrocities by the aggressive Iraqi and warmongering regime in bombing Iran's civilian targets, the statement says: In response to this impudence, the fighters of Islam will shell heavily and bomb Iraq's military, industrial, and economic centers.

In this statement, the War Information Headquarters asks the Iraqi people who live near these centers or who work at industrial and economic centers to evacuate these centers immediately so as to remain immune from Iran's retaliatory fire.

Iraqi Air Raids on Esfahan, Khuzestan Reported

LD011047 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] This morning, aircraft of the warmongering regime of Iraq violated the airspace of Khuzestan and Esfahan Provinces and bombed a number of civilian areas, including industrial and labor units.

A number of our civilian compatriots were martyred or injured during the attack and there was some damage.

U.S., UK Reaction to Attack on Kuwaiti Ship Cited

NC010516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Report by unidentified Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent from London]

[Text] Following the damaging of the Kuwaiti ship *Jebel Ali* in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz by a rocket and machinegun [mosalsal] attack, which put two holes in the ship, London oil sources have reported that traffic in the Strait of Hormuz is at a near standstill. Cargo vessels and tankers have suspended their passage through this strait in the past few hours.

In Washington the U.S. State Department spokesman has once again declared the U.S. Government's disapproval of the Iraqi regime's recent measure in the Persian Gulf, saying: The U.S. Government believes Iraq's recent attacks will not resolve the problems of Iraq and the United States.

A BBC Television commentator has announced that following Iraq's resumption of raids on Iran's oil installations in the Persian Gulf, all ships, especially U.S. vessels, are in serious danger, as Iran considers the United States responsible for all these attacks and reserves the right to retaliate. He added: Iran has warned that it will retaliate against all its enemies.

In the past 3 days, during which Iraqi attacks against Iranian oil intallations have resumed, Western sources have reiterated that these attacks illustrate Baghdad's determination to expand the Gulf war, internationalizing it and initiating a confrontation between Iran and the United States.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Accepts Invitation To Visit USSR

LD311708 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] USSR Ambassador Boldyrev was received today by Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the meeting the Soviet ambassador conveyed greetings and messages from Soviet leaders to the Majlis speaker.

The Soviet ambassador delivered Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Refsanjani a written invitation fom the chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, A.E. Voss and Soviet of the Union L.S. Tolkunov to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in November.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani accepted the invitation, praised the wise position of the Soviet leadership with regard to the present issues of the region, and expressed the hope that he will be able to visit the USSR at an opportune time.

Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani on Gulf, Afghanistan, USSR

LD291316 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA — In an interview published in the Saturday issue of the English daily "*Tehran Times*" Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has said that the Islamic Republic would be willing to spare Kuwaiti ships from retaliatory attacks provided only that the sheikhdom adopt

a truly neutral stand in the Iraq-Iran war and discontinue aid to the Baghdad government.

The daily also quotes the Majlis speaker as having singled out the United States and the Saudi Government for having pitted the Baghdad government against Iran, adding that the Islamic government cannot by any means guarantee that Iran's victory in the war would necessarily mean a total end to war, since "the root of the war is elsewhere."

On the Security Council Resolution No. 598 passed on July 20, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "We have presented a clear formula to the Security Council for ending the war and if the members of the Council are sincere in their move they should first fulfil the promises mentioned in the resolution".

"I believe that all the members of the Security Council are sure that Iraq is aggressor," he said. "If they announce this, the next step as to what do do with the aggressor can be decided," he said and pointed out that "an Islamic, international, or regional court should be set up to discuss what to do with the aggressor."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "After the announcement of the aggressor I believe we will not need to fight if the Security Council brings the aggressor to book and punishes the aggressor". "In this event the war at the fronts will be halted and at that stage we will accept Resolution No. 598," he said. "Condemnation alone will not serve the purpose," he said and underlined the fact that "condemnation will serve as grounds for a court to subsequently issue a verdict."

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani also said "we must mobilize all forces and resources we have at our disposal which we need even after the end of the current Iraqi imposed war." "We cannot guarantee that the war will end after the defeat of the Iraqi regime because the root of the war is not in Iraq but is elsewhere," he said and singled out the Mecca massacre on July 31.

Commenting on U.S. propaganda on possible attacks on Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "I don't think the U.S. will attack Iran or occupy parts of Iran.... If it happens we can use our own facilities (without any foreign assistance) to throw the Americans out".

On the present policy of the U.S. towards Iran he said, "We have received two messages through regional countries who are friends of Washington in which the U.S. has expressed willingness to have relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran." "We have our own doubts on these messages as we saw no good intentions on the part of the U.S. in them." "We, however, declared that if the U.S. has any genuine desire to have relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran it should show its good intentions after releasing confiscated Iranian assets lying in the United States for the last 10 years."

He said the Americans were the initiators of the hostility between the two countries and urged them to change their present oppressive policy in the region. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "If our (U.S.-Iran) relations are changed from hostility to friendly ties, many things may be changed."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "the relations of the Saudi regime and the Islamic Republic of Iran are at their lowest ebb and they will deteriorate further in future" because of the crimes committed by the rulers of that country during the hajj pilgrimage ceremonies July 31.

"Well, we never embarked on a policy of confrontation with the Saudi regime," he said, adding "we wanted to have relations with the Riyadh regime on the basis of peaceful co-existence especially after the war.... A policy which we want to follow in the region as a whole." "From now on," he said, "I see it is impossible for us to have close relations with them (Saudi rulers)."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Iranian pilgrims will go for hajj next year also as it is their religious duty and the Saudi also did not make any announcements contrary to this. The objective of the Saudis was not to prevent this particular demonstration of the Muslims during the hajj ceremonies. "Such demonstrations are our religious duty and we have to continue our political presence during that great Islamic gathering after making sure the Saudis repent of their malevolent deeds."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "our stand on the Afghanistan issue is the same as before. We want an independent Afghanistan free from the influence of this or that bloc." "We have necessary information about the Muslim Afghan Mojahedin and we know they will never allow the Western agents to gain power in that country," he said.

Commenting on the Soviet-Iran relations Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "in recent weeks relations between the two countries have experienced great developments." "I believe that the future of bilateral cooperation (with the Soviets) is bright because both are neighbors and have a common border of 2,600 kilometers," he said.

"The U.S. is using France and Britain as a tool in the Persian Gulf," he said and recalled that London and Paris had started the war of embassies.

On the recently concluded meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab League he said, "What did we gain from their friendship earlier that we have to lose now from their enmity?" The progressive Arab countries are of course exception, he said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said attachment to India was highlighted by the presence of so many Muslims in India, the Indian struggle against the British imperialists and also a common culture. He was commenting on the forthcoming visit of Indian Lok Sabha (parliament) Speaker Balram Jakar to Iran. He said, "We have always believed that if one day our hands are free (after the war) we will have extensive cooperation with Indians."

"Our present cooperation with India is much less than what it should have been.... There is no problem in relations between Iran and India. Of course, some incidents occur such as Hindu-Muslim clashes and we have talked to Indian officials on this subject and they have said that such matters do not arise from hostility by the Government of India." "We are not satisfied as to the present relations with India and we expect that the level of these relations will increase in diversified ways."

Elsewhere in the interview Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "even if Iraq hits our ships in the Persian Gulf we will not hit Kuwaiti tankers on the sole condition that the sheikhdom becomes neutral." "Some say that Kuwait is an Arab country which cannot be totally neutral," he said, "But we believe it can adopt a similar stand such as that of Oman or of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).... They are also Arab countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani ruled out the possibility of joining hands with the United States and the Soviet Union for the safety of navigation in the Persian Gulf and said, "It's the responsibility of the littoral states."

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon
LD281853 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1230 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 28 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted on Arabic verses and translation in Persian calling for purity] At first I was going to continue the topics on freedom which have been interrupted for 2 weeks, two Fridays. However, because a new [Muslim lunar] year and a new month — Muharram [month beginning 26 August] — are beginning, I think it is necessary to say something about this month. [passage omitted on the history of Moharram]

We can decisively claim that the movement of Husayn Ebni-'Ali [the third infallible imam of the Shi'ites whose martyrdom on 10 Moharram is the most important religious ceremony for Shi'ites] was a bloody movement opposed to separating religion and politics. [Crowd shouts: God is great!] Our duty in this world is to have this idea understood by the nations of the world, namely, that being a prophet without migrating [allusion to the prophet's migration from Mecca to Medina] is not true Islam. A religion in which the political power of the religion, the sovereignty of religious instructions, and the establishment of an Islamic regime are not according to divine revelations is not Islam — it is Islam with shortcomings. This is what arrogance and its stooges now fear. In the Mecca tragedy — both before and after — this problem was clear: The materialist rulers of the world and the hired hands of global arrogance are doing their best to separate religion from political problems and the administration of society. They try to keep religion away from the idea that in society political power is subordinate to God's instructions. [passage omitted elaborating on same topic]

In our own contemporary history Moharram has a special place in the Islamic movement. In Moharram 57 [August 1978-79] a new policy was declared in the movement and in the struggle by our revolution's leader and our great imam. He said blood is victorious over the sword. This is not merely a slogan to rouse the people; it is not a catchy statement without any deep thought behind it. It is a great Islamic policy. [passage omitted elaborating on same idea]

The Mecca incident adds yet another dimension to Moharram, in which 'Ashura falls [the 10th of that month]. This year our Moharram and the new Hejirah year [the Arabic Islamic lunar year of 1408 which began on 26 August] was accompanied by the victimization of the martyrs of Mecca. [passage omitted on Koranic verse] In that Mecca tragedy precisely the same question of resisting victims was repeated and will be repeated. Our loved ones were under great pressure while the paid agents of the Saudi regime were blocking their path up and down the road — and indeed they blocked all escape routes so the crowd could not escape; they killed with bullets, sticks and stones, choking gas, and stampedes — and this was very much the same as what happened at the beginning of Islam. [passage omitted on history] This is our history. This is our experience in history. The despots, club wielders, and renegade agents of world arrogance must not think the cries of those seeking justice in early Islam are now silenced. They must not believe that killing Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims — martyring the defenseless and the believers in God — will cost them nothing. Our dear imam, that clear and bright heart, that glittering mirror of divinity, will — in the past 20 years we have repeatedly experienced his greatness — said the other day the roots of the house of Al Sa'ud have been cut off. He said these ignorant politicians and stupid people dug their own graves with this deed. Most certainly it will be so. [crowd cheers approval]

In the Mecca tragedy, that very bloodcurdling tragedy, three factors were evident — murder, shamelessness, and stupidity. They were far too cruel. Later I will give two or three small examples. Then they began to face up to this with great audacity. Rather than apologizing, sending an envoy, and seeking compassion from God, from the great Islamic ummah, from the Iranian nation, and from martyrs' families, they shamelessly stood their ground. They resorted to making unfounded claims. They resorted to wrongful propaganda. Of course, these propaganda stunts are now gradually being exposed as lies. It is always like that. As time passes these waves will gather strength and will attract the world's peoples in regard to this tragedy, no matter how long it takes or how much it costs.

The third element was their stupidity. They lacked the courage to resort to such a deed, they were not men enough to confront the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution. They were cowards like all the Qaruns [legendary rich people] of the world who accumulate wealth and as such they thought only of the consequences and of their own comfort. But the United States deceived them. And these fools led themselves to be deceived by the United States. They must pay for this deed, they must be punished, and they will indeed receive punishment as God wills it. [cheers]

I will tell you two or three details about the tragedy. I ask the brothers and sisters who witnessed this tragedy to report the details without exaggeration and with precision to the authorities. Our propaganda, political, and intelligence agencies are collecting facts on the incident. Every new account we hear clarifies another aspect. Today we have a great deal of evidence proving the Saudis planned their actions. One day we will present this evidence to the world; god willing, we will.

Any of you who witnessed the tragedy in Mecca, whether on the scene or in passing, please relate your facts without exaggeration and with great precision. This is necessary for the authorities to

take account of the incident so they can draw a very precise and clear picture of this very important and historic incident. I will relate two or three points. One is about the Iranian pilgrims' high morale. [Passage omitted eulogizing the Iranian pilgrims' courage and self-sacrifice] The imam's honorable representative said after the incident when he appeared at the holy shrine, Iranian pilgrims would come and express interest. Injured individuals were waiting and resting. When the Saudi mercenaries realized the Iranian pilgrims were there and that they were not participating in the incident, rather than telling them to return to their hotels the Saudi mercenaries threw gas. They cannot say they wanted to restore order. Hundreds testified the Saudis wanted to be cruel.

One of our friends said: Several hours after the incident I went to the holy shrine. A number of women were there, some whose houses were in that direction and some who had lost their way and were there asking directions. He said: As soon as everybody realized I was an Iranian, this Muslim brither said I should accompany some of them to their residences. As soon as we left the holy mosque a number of armed Saudi police arrived. When they saw the Iranians again they began to beat them up and trampled on the Muslim women. That is real cruelty not seen before. Then they conducted propaganda in the media against Iranians, but I want to say this propaganda failed to have the desired impact, not even on the people of Mecca. [passage omitted repeating the same point]

[Passage omitted quoting Koranic verse] I will go over the points coinciding with this week's main events [Moharram and Government Week] and then I will summarize for you the U.S. regime's defeats in its confrontation with the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution. One of this week's events is Government Week, which is marked every year simultaneously with the occasion marking the martyrdom of two prominent and noble Iranian figures, that is, martyr Rajai'e, president, and martyr Bahonar, prime minister. This is an opportunity for people to learn about the services rendered by the government and the work it has carried out, as well as to receive a report summarizing what has been done and what has occurred. It is also an opportunity for government officials themselves to take another look at what has been carried out and assess it, eliminate weaknesses, increase strong points, and emphasize and stress once again the relations between the people and the Government of the Islamic Republic, the officials of our sacred and noble system and officials of various organs. Government officials and the people should jointly and in unison, following the great leader of the revolution, continue to move toward the objectives of this revolution and the realization of its slogans. In this respect, the beloved memory of these two great martyrs of ours is vital and necessary, not a single moment of our revolution should pass without our revolutionary ummah and revolutionary climate forgetting the sincere servants, especially those who suffered under the oppressions of past days and who experienced the revolution with all their being, their flesh and blood, and in whose being the slogans of the revolution took shape and who joined the revolution with all their heart and faith. We should keep their memories alive because they are teachers and models for all of us. [passage omitted praising Rajai'e, Bahonar, and Eraqi, another cleric who died in the revolution]

I would also like to make a recommendation on the occasion of Moharram, to all those who will be staging mourning ceremonies — of course, these ceremonies, just like every year and always, will be staged with splendor reflecting the warmth and enthusiasm of all the people, and this year Moharram has special characteristics as you well know — the Mecca tragedy was a new event for our Moharram and now too our territory is truly a territory that resembles Karbala. [I repeat] The Mecca tragedy was a new event for our Moharram and now too our territory is truly a territory that resembles Karbala'. Our nation's fervor resembles the fervor of the 'Ashura martyrs. We should continue to hold these gatherings and ceremonies with enthusiasm, excitement, sincerity, and love, but my recommendation to the mourners is not to trouble the people; this is something which we have repeated on many occasions and even our dear eminent imam recommended 2 or 3 years ago that during the night the loudspeakers not disturb people. The retort: No, this is for the sake of Imam Hoseyn and if it prevents someone from sleeping then that is just too bad! This reaction is wrong and is totally unacceptable. Some people were heard flagellating themselves over loudspeakers. But why over the loudspeaker? The chants of mourning, eulogies, and preachings are also heard. If a loudspeaker is to be used for these, then it should be used among a gathering of listeners. A preacher has, after all, no listener in the streets, on the rooftops, or in the city quarters. But there are listeners inside the mosque and, if need be, a loudspeaker may be used there. But to bother people outside the mosque late at night and prevent a sick person from sleeping, this does not conform to any Islamic and Hoseynite logic.

We have heard it said that when complaints are made the reply is: Well, a person who is disturbed by the sound of lamentation is of no concern to us, let them continue to be disturbed. No, this should not be. Even if you bother someone with the sound of lamentation during times of rest — I do not mean the middle of the day or the beginning of the evening but during times when people rest and relax — if you harrass people then, even if you harrass them with the sound of laments, then you will be performing a forbidden act. Try and give substance and content to eulogies and gatherings. I beg the dear brothers, respected preachers and lament chanters, especially eulogy and lament chanters, and also chanters of religious ballads who participate in mourning gatherings and assemblies, to conduct these gatherings in a meaningful way. Try and sing eulogies — eulogies [marsiyeh] mean recreating in chants the same events that took place there [in Karbala']. You should eulogize, explain, and perform through chants every one of these events in a good, comprehensible manner, and present them to the people in this way.

This is what good eulogizing is about. There is no need to resort to things that are baseless, dreamed-up, or false in order to warm the gathering and make people cry. The events that took place in Ashura have been written in numerous books. Among Arabic works there is Ershad by Mofid, Lu'ufah by Sayyid ibn Tavus, and numerous other works, and among Persian works, the translation of Nafas al-Mahmum by the late Oomi is one of the best works; they have all written of the events at 'Ashura. And the artful recountings of a prayer reciter, preacher, or lament chanter can draw people's attention to that event, make their heart tremble, and make them cry. These things are all good,

valuable, and beneficial contributions to this society, this revolution, and this general movement of the people, and they have many blessings for the revolution and the people.

So efforts should be made to give substance and body to these gatherings so that the dimensions of the Hoseynite movement can be explained and so that the gatherings may act as forums for defining religious issues, edicts, and fundamental and political issues; they should be instructive. Fortunately it has always been like this. During the time of oppression, these religious gatherings were also used in this manner, which resulted in God granting great victory to this nation.

However, some things that are not very realistic and that do not have much meaning should, in our opinion, be avoided. We have also said in the past — sometimes there are passion plays [shabih-khani] — we are not against passion plays but for them. We are for good, correct passion plays that compare with reality. However, sometimes some of the weaker stories are reenacted. For instance, take the story of the Lion and Fizzah [it is said that a lion came to the assistance of Imam Hoseyn by trying to protect his daughter, Fizzah] — and it is not even clear what really happened with regard to this story — that they should reenact this and dress up like a lion. As if a lion could explain anything or define any dimensions of the Hoseynite episode! We see that such things take place and that television also broadcasts them later. Passion plays are good and beneficial, provided they compare well with events. [passage omitted on same theme].

We therefore beg the brothers, officials, those who hold gatherings and prepare the prayer centers and mosques, those who conduct the prayers, the preachers, the reciters — in short, all those involved — to try and present the events of 'Ashura and the 10th Moharram in their true form. We can benefit immensely from these gatherings in religious, ethical, political instructions, and for strengthening moral, piety, and spirituality. These are my recommendations and I hope, God willing, that they will be useful.

And now, the issue of defeats suffered by the United States. A few months ago, the United States adopted its new policy, and it has felt isolation as the first experience. Earlier, the United States had hopes that with the cooperation of the USSR and the Eastern bloc, as well as its Western allies, it could organize a large-scale, global move against the revolution. That is what the United States intended. Of course, it was to no avail, and the United States was faced with defeat.

The Russians adopted a wise strategy and a correct policy. At first they fell under the influence of U.S. thinking. However, they very soon realized that a fair approach was necessary. The policy adopted by the Russians in the Persian Gulf was in fact a fair one. At this stage, the United States realized that an all-round and united attack against the Islamic Republic was no longer possible. At this point we declared that if East and West became united in partnership, the final victorious party would be the divine will of our committed and resisting nation.

Their organized pincer-attacks to try and place the Islamic Republic between the two (?fronts) and also to bring pressure to bear came to nothing and was not continued. This was the first defeat suffered by the arrogant U.S. policy. Its European and Western allies suffered the same fate. However, a number of these states, such as Britain and France, gave lip service to the United States and in some cases provided assistance by sending a warship and publicizing or making (?a statement). All in all, the holistic view of news we have received here — all being correct — shows that the United States' Western allies are not at all convinced oncooperating with and supporting the United States. Naturally, different objectives exist among them and they cannot move in unison for any length of time. Therefore, the United States is almost isolated among the large world powers.

After this defeat felt by the United States, more defeats followed one after another. Reactive and passive U.S. policies borne out of an agitated state were put into effect and each one brought a defeat and a new blow. One of these defeats was that same so-called strong presence in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman waters. Vessels and warships were sent there on the pretext of escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers. The original idea — that is, escorting and protecting Kuwaiti oil tankers — was questioned throughout the world, even in the United States. Many wondered what the United States was doing and on what authority could it involve itself in such a dangerous and large affair so that Kuwaiti oil tankers could transport their oil for export. The methods of implementing the same were also questioned.

When the United States is supposed to support its ally, friend, lackey, hireling, or others, it must know how much it is investing in the affair. Dispatching so many forces and warships to be stationed in the Persian Gulf — and borrowing equipment such as minesweepers whenever necessary — as well as tens and hundreds of meetings, contacts, and trips have cost the United States a gigantic sum. They have incurred a huge bill, and this is this same point that has been questioned by many in the United States and the world, who consider this area a point of weakness for the United States.

Of course, the United States pursued its task and entered the Persian Gulf, stationing or redeploying its vessels and warships. But, in the final analysis, the United States' braggadocio and impressive image were tarnished. The same superpower that once sorted out its affairs by announcing the dispatch of its fleet from one point to another — it used to support one regime, frighten another, and weaken a third; there are thousands of these cases — the same regime that introduced itself as global gendarme, ruler of all seas and free waterways, and that has required its own presence in every corner of the world where it assumes an interest has lost its impressiveness and awesomeness, or at least a considerable part of them.

Everyone realizes that the United States, despite its much-announced power, has found a corner where it is powerless. In the Persian Gulf, everyone realizes that if the United States arrives, and if Iraqi strikes against the Islamic Republic's vessels continue, the United States would receive an irreparable blow. [crowd cheers]

This is the truth. If our vessels are targeted while Kuwaiti vessels in the Persian Gulf have U.S. escorts, of course we will not relinquish our declared policy of retaliation in kind. Subsequently, the United States may receive a blow. What could the

United States do after receiving this blow? How could the United States enter into a naval battle in which it might receive many blows? This is an abject situation for the United States. This possibility is so profound that they were obliged to officially request the Iraqi regime not to strike Iranian vessels in the Persian Gulf while they [U.S. vessels] are there so that Iran will not attack them in response. In the end, after a face-saving process seen through by the world, and after everyone found out that the United States wanted to tell the truth when it said it was entering the Persian Gulf to conduct escort missions, no trace of its power, bragging, or impressiveness as a superpower is left.

It is plain to see that if Iraq had not listened to the United States and had continued its attacks in the Persian Gulf, the same blow would befall them, but the United States would receive the hardest blow. The same holds true today. We have declared that we will not start or stoke any fire. We will not engage the United States in a war but, if this U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf means that Kuwaiti and Saudi oil can be exported easily while the flow of oil from the Islamic Republic is halted by Iraqi attacks on oil tankers, we will not allow this, and no one can withstand our retaliatory operations — not even the U.S. Navy.

Another shameful and defeated U.S. policy was the hajj affair. The United States intended to inflict a blow against the Islamic Republic, but in fact the blow was inflicted against its ally, the hireling and mercenary Saudi regime. The Saudi regime was disgraced. The echo of the blow to the Saudi regime by Islam and the Muslims will continue to be heard in the future. Muslim people all over the world recognize those who do not observe divine restrictions and who violate the sanctity of the secure shrine of God in order to please global arrogance. They completely destroyed the the Saudi regime's prestige and honor, which it tried to build up by spending so many dollars.

They were the losers; they were the ones who were defeated. We are not going to give up on the issue; we will pursue this affair. As the imam graciously said: All Muslims have a duty in the face of this incident. No doubt Muslims will fulfill their duty. This incident, this policy, therefore, was a very foolish policy implemented by the Americans. They threw their friend, their ally, their biggest and only hope after the shah, that is the Saudi regime, into waves of disaster. The Saudi regime can definitely not save itself from the waves of disaster. This policy failed too.

You are all aware of the UN Security Council issue. They have worked on it for the past 3 or 4 months. First, the resolution did not turn out as they wanted. They had intended to add a strong condemnation of Iran and impose an arms embargo. They did not succeed; however, they are still working on it. Nevertheless, they cannot achieve what they want to achieve.

The Arab League foreign ministers conference turned out to be very ridiculous, despised, and trivial. This was another measure dictated by U.S. policies and their repercussions. On the whole, every policy which the U.S. regime has adopted in support of Iraq and against the Islamic Republic to change the true course of the war has failed again and again. I am saying that any other policy that the U.S. regime might adopt will certainly fail, thanks to the resistance of the people and this great might demonstrated by our people. [crowd shouts approval]

What I must say in conclusion can be summarized in one sentence: All these efforts by the United States and global arrogance -- the efforts of its allies, mercenaries, and agents -- and all their propaganda, expenditures, and failures are aimed at saving the warmongering, Ba'thist and 'Aflaqi regime of Saddam from the valley of death that awaits it. That is all. Our answer to all these policies is fulfillment of one task only and that is concentrating our forces, building up our resources, and concentrating our attacks on the battlefront against Iraq and, God willing, uprooting the 'Aflaqi Ba'th Party which is ruling over the Iraqi people in Baghdad.

We will maintain our readiness in every political, economic, diplomatic, and military arena. We will not be absent in any region or arena where global arrogance might organize a movement against the Islamic Republic. We will be present there; we will respond to blows; we will take the necessary action and deliver retaliatory blows to our enemy — global arrogance. Let there be no doubt about it. However, the forces should demonstrate their greatest concentration and their utmost effort on the battlefield. Our nation should realize that what solves all these problems is a just and favorable resolution of the war. A defeat inflicted on the 'Aflaqi regime will in fact defeat all these efforts of global arrogance; our youths should understand this quite well.

This mobilization announced by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps for 10 to 15 Muharram [4 to 9 September] is another opportunity for eager volunteers, those eager to struggle and fight in the jihad, to fill the trenches, and to stand behind the earthworks, the headquarters, the centers, and the entire length of the 1,300 km warfront. That is the place where we should demonstrate the true might of Islam and the Muslims. I am certain that with this level of morale, thanks to the devotion of our youths, the faith of the martyrs' families, and the sincerity demonstrated by every strata of society, we will deliver repeated blows to the Iraqi regime on the battlefield of the imposed war, which is the main center of our struggle against global arrogance, God willing. These blows will eventually end the hopes and dreams of global arrogance, that is, it will result in the destruction of the 'Aflaqi regime of Saddam. [crowd shouts approval] May God's blessings and mercy be upon you all.

Velayati Congratulates Libyan Counterpart

LD010810 Tehran IRNA in English 0737 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA — Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to his Libyan counterpart, Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Tuesday congratulating him on the occasion of the anniversary of the Libyan revolution, Sept 1st.

He said that ties between Iran and Libya have grown as a result of the identity of their struggle against the oppressors and the Zionists.

Velayati said in the light of increasing threats of oppressive world powers and the U.S. in particular against Iran and Libya, further cooperation between the two countries for thwarting plots is necessary.

Larijani News Conference on UN, FRG, USSR Talks

LD311634 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — If the U.N. Security Council officially identifies the aggressor in the Iraq-Iran war it will be considered an 'important' step towards peace and security in the Persian Gulf, said Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani here today.

Speaking at a press conference here, Larijani said that naming the aggressor party will be a major stride by the Security Council to rectify its stance on the Iraqi-imposed war. Such a step by the Security Council will pave the way for further cooperation between Iran and the United Nations, particularly the U.N. secretary general, noted Larijani.

He said the Islamic Republic has no hostility towards the Security Council or the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, but believes if the council fulfills its duty of preventing aggression by condemning the aggressor it would certainly have taken an important step towards peace.

However the deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs made it clear that any country attempting to exert pressure on Iran by exploiting the Security Council resolution and through political ploys is doomed to defeat because the Iranian nation will not surrender to such pressures.

On his recent talks with the U.N. chief, in New York, Larijani said he had told De Cuellar that no country favors peace in the Persian Gulf as much as Iran does because regional peace and security definitely tally with Iranian interests.

He said talks between the Islamic Republic and the U.N. chief will continue for the purpose of establishing an "honourable and lasting" peace in the region.

Larijani disclosed that Iran had extended an official invitation to De Cuellar to visit Tehran but that the U.s. seems to be opposed to such a visit.

On his talks with Italian and West German foreign ministers while on his way home to Tehran, Larijani said these were focussed on the need to identify the aggressor and unveil to the world the real face of the Iraqi regime which dealt a grave blow to regional peace by invading Iran.

He described Security Council Resolution No. 598 on the Iraqi-imposed war as one of the "most unfortunate" ever passed by the council because since its inception the U.S. by its military presence and Iraq by heightening tension had violated it.

Larijani reiterated that any plan to establish lasting peace in the region should clearly identify the aggressor and the victim of aggression, define ways to restore the denied rights of the oppressed and have practical guarantees for its implementation.

On his talks with the Soviet delegation at the U.N., the deputy foreign minister said that both the Islamic Republic and the Soviet Union believe that U.S. military presence in the region damages security and that the tension created by Washington has inflicted a severe blow to the Security Council and its resolution.

Pointing to President Khamene'i's participation in the forthcoming meet of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Larijani said what the president is going to state there, will be something quite fresh and important to the world and public opinion.

Further on Larijani Remarks

LD312222 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Larijani, deputy foreign minister in charge of economic affairs and international relations, at the end of his visit to New York, Italy, and the FRG, discussed the results of his visits in an interview on Monday.

He said: Our activities in New York revolved around three issues: participation in the first international conference on disarmament and development, discussions with the secretary general of the United Nations on the recent Security Council resolution, and on the situation in the Persian Gulf, and conveying the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on those issues. We held discussions on issues of bilateral interest and on grounds for greater international cooperation with the FRG and Italian Council members, the present and future presidents of the Security Council.

Regarding his discussions with the UN secretary general, he said: We held detailed discussions with Mr Perez de Cuellar on the resolution and on peace in the region. We explained to him that the resolution in itself is of no significance to us. What is important are the developments that have resulted from this resolution. If any country or any movement wishes to impose something on us through such resolutions, they will certainly not succeed, because Iran will not submit to pressure, nor will such resolutions establish any peace.

The deputy foreign minister in charge of economic affairs and international relations said: We favor peace and true security in the region. Iraq was the aggressor who delivered the greatest blow against peace. Yet, despite that, it portrays itself as favoring peace. Our aim is to remove this veil of deception so that Iraq's real features are revealed. Iraq's recent attempts to create tension are also in search of the same goal.

He said: America's aggressive acts in support of Iraq at the time Resolution No 598 was issued destroyed its value, because sending troops [as heard] to the region was contrary to the course of peace and created tension in the region. We raised this issue with the secretary general and with other UN officials and, while describing our positions regarding peace, we also tried to reveal Iran's real face which is the standard bearer of peace in the region.

Mr Larijani added: In our view, the natural course of peace should follow three basic elements: first, the clarification of position, namely, that the aggressor, the victim of the aggression, and the dimensions of the aggression should be identified. The

second element is that a peace plan should be practical and just, that the main parties are consulted. Any plan in which one main party, namely Iran, has had no role is of no value. The third element is that any reasonable plan for peace and security should have practical guarantees for implementation. Who would accept the signature and guarantees of Saddam Husayn and America as being sufficient for implementation of the plan? Certainly, they cannot be regarded as guarantors for the future. Therefore, the roots of a similar aggression in the future should be destroyed.

Mr Larijani added: The United States is determined to use this resolution as a lever of pressure against us. However, exerting pressure on Iran will both intensify the conflict as well as prolong it.

He added: We think that if the Security Council clearly identifies the aggressor and announces it to the world, this will be an important step in establishing security and will pave the way for greater cooperation between us and the secretary general and the Security Council.

He emphasized: The Security Council should adopt a position against the aggressor on the basis of the UN Charter. At the moment, the Security Council is in a position where its mettle is being tested on a historical touchstone. The test is whether it will surrender to the ploy of exerting pressure on Iran, in which case the Council will fail; or whether it will try to establish peace and security in the region. We believe that in the latter case, the Council will certainly achieve some success, and this will also be very good for its future.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD311733 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — Iran is prepared to continue its negotiations with the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Tehran, said Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday.

The speaker added that if the U.N. Security Council focuses its activities on condemning the aggressor, in the Iraq-Iran war, the Islamic Republic is ready to have an all-out cooperation with the Security Council.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the remarks in a meeting with Foreign Ministry Deputy for International and Economic Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani and Iran's Ambassador to the U.N. Seyyed Rajai'e-Khorassani who submitted a report to Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on their talks with the U.N. Secretary general.

Larijani said at the meeting that during his talks with De Cuellar and some members of the U.N. Security Council he had stressed that Iran welcomes a just solution to the imposed war, which guarantees long-term peace and security in the region.

"But if the Security Council submits to the U.S. and tries to pressure Iran, the Islamic Republic will resist with all its might," he added.

DER SPIEGEL on 'Readiness' for Cease-Fire With Iraq

DW311005 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 31 Aug 87 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Bonn: Cease-Fire in Gulf?"]

[Text] After holding a meeting of its Supreme Defense Council, this week Iran intends to signal its readiness for a cease-fire in the Gulf war with Iraq. This is the view of Bonn's Foreign Ministry after Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larijani met with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher last Friday. Iran, which for almost 7 years has been fighting with its neighbor Iraq in a war with heavy losses, would thus follow Resolution No 598 that was unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council on 20 July this year. The enemy Iraq, that started the conflict, had already agreed to the resolution. The Bonn government had repeatedly supported agreement to the cease-fire. The FRG is the only important Western country that has functioning contacts with the mullah regime in Tehran, and it was chairing the Security Council in August.

Security Council Discusses Narcotics Smuggling

LD011215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] This morning's session of the country's Security Council, which was attended by the interior minister, commanders of military and security forces, and other members of the council discussed the country's latest political and security situation and the Persian Gulf situation. The presence of the U.S. aggressor forces and those of other arrogant countries in the region was raised by the relevant organizations and ways of combating this were discussed. It was decided that the officials responsible for the security of the country's southern provinces should take the necessary steps to deal with the plots of world arrogance, headed by the United States, and that civil defense training should be given to the public through the mass media.

In line with the responsibility of the Islamic Revolution Committee to combat narcotics smugglers and rebels, the session approved assigning the control and the security of 400 km of the country's southwestern borders to that institution.

It was also decided that the Gendarmerie should submit a (?plan) within a month to the Islamic Revolution Committee on combating narcotics so that that the committee will be able to confront the merchants of death inside the country and on the borders in an active and concentrated manner.

Mo'ayeri Returns From Turkey-CSSR-Bulgaria Visits

LD300647 Tehran IRNA in English 0624 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA — Deputy Prime Minister for political affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri arrived here Saturday night after his week-long visit to Turkey, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

Mo'ayeri handed President Khamene'i's written message over to his Czech and Bulgarian counterparts and delivered a message from Premier Musavi to Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

In a short talk to reporters at the airport here Mo'ayeri said that he discussed bilateral relations and regional developments, especially the situation in the Persian Gulf, with the officials in those countries.

He said that the three countries are against foreign power presence in the Persian Gulf and agree with the Islamic Republic of Iran that to end the crisis all foreign forces should pull out of the Persian Gulf.

Briefs Khamene'i on Tour
LD311821 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — Deputy prime minister for political affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri met president 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday and briefed him on his recently-concluded three-nation tour of Turkey, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria.

Mo'ayeri informed the president that top officials of these countries had expressed willingness to strengthen their relations with the Islamic Republic. He also said that Turkish, Czech and Bulgarian officials backed Iran's stance on the need for withdrawal of foreign fleets from the Persian Gulf.

The deputy premier submitted President Khamene'i's messages to his Czech and Bulgarian counterparts during his tour.

Japanese Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 29 Aug
OW301313 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 30 KYODO — A high-level Japanese Foreign Ministry official arrived in Tehran late Saturday night for talks with Iranian officials, Iran's *Islamic Republic News Agency* reported Sunday.

Takashi Onda, director of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, is expected to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Meets With Velayati
LD301750 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today that Iran has always welcomed a visit by the United Nations secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar, adding that such a visit can be fruitful and constructive in light of the previous efforts by the U.N. chief.

Velayati made the remarks in response to a request by the visiting Japanese Foreign Ministry director general for Mid-East and African affairs Takashi Onda who called for Iran's cooperation with the U.N. secretary general. The Japanese official also stressed on Iran-Japan friendly relations as well as Tokyo's efforts to modify the Security Council decisions, during the meeting.

Referring to the Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraqi-imposed war Velayati said Iran has been subjected to aggression of another country, and that all world politicians are aware that it was Iraq which attacked Iran.

The foreign minister expressed regret that the Security Council has refrained to set forth the aggression issue, therefore, he added "we think that the council is being influenced by countries which support Iraq". Onda arrived here late Saturday.

Atomic Energy Organization Chief on Energy Plans
LD291029 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Bushehr, Aug. 29, IRNA — Head of Iran Atomic Energy Organisation Reza Amrollahi said here Saturday that Iran will host a conference on the application of laser in a near future.

Amrollahi, currently here on the occasion of Government Week, said that scientists and experts of 15 countries will take part in the five-day conference, to convene on Sept. 12.

Scientists from China, India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Canada are to participate along with others from Europe and Africa.

On energy supply in Iran, Amrollahi said that plans are underway to supply 20 percent of national energy needs by nuclear power within the next 10 years. He said, efforts are being made to complete Bushehr atomic power plant as soon as possible.

On control over imported foodstuffs, Amrollahi said that all imported items, ranging from dried mil to forage, were closely inspected for symptoms of radio-active contamination.

He said instances of contaminated foodstuffs had been previously noticed and that the imported foods had been returned to their exporters.

'Arab Diplomat' Details Plot Behind Mecca Events
NC310704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 31 Aug 87

[Text] Fresh details have surfaced about the shooting of pilgrims to the house of God. An Arab diplomat has revealed new aspects about the incident to the Central News Unit correspondent in Beirut. Reactionary Arabs had modelled their plan to crush the demonstrations disavowing pagans along the lines of the Dar al-Nadwah [Arabic term for group decision, originating in Islamic history].

This Arab diplomat, who requested anonimity, said: The disavowal march in Mecca was viewed as a danger to the stability and tranquillity of the area, because slogans such as "Death to America" were suicidal as far as regimes such as Jordan and Egypt were concerned. Hence, a decision was made to take measures against such demonstrations. He said: Although the Saudi Government implemented the plan to crush the disavowal march, the plan was proposed by the Governments of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and probably Israel as well. Israel had exerted

pressure through Egypt on the Saudi Government to crush the Mecca demonstrations.

He continued: It had been decided to crush last year's demonstration, but the Saudi regime feared the consequences of a massacre in Mecca, as it was unsure whether or not other governments would support it afterward, making it a target for recrimination and condemnation by the Islamic world. This is why, he said, they set up a special force to suppress the Mecca protests, a force comprised of officers in command of antiriot forces in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. The token presence of antiriot forces from Arab countries among the Saudi antiriot forces recalls Dar al-Nadwah tactics in the Jahiliyah era [before the advent of Islam], when a representative from each tribe participated in the scheme to murder the prophet, thus dispersing the political consequences of such an act.

The diplomat continued: As you observed immediately after the Mecca massacre, heads of reactionary Arab regimes, without exception, expressed support for Fahd, without waiting for investigations to be made, in accordance with their plan. He said: Iranian counterrevolutionary elements were also actively and covertly involved in perpetrating the massacre. A Pakistani in Saudi Arabia who was aware of the plan was killed immediately by these elements.

Saudi Military Equipment Arrives in Baghdad

LD301722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Aug 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, in cooperation with the aid of international oppression, led by the United States, for the Baghdad regime, two giant aircraft belonging to the Saudi regime carrying military equipment landed in Baghdad's Al-Rashid Airport last week. We remind you that the Al Sa'ud and Kuwaiti regimes are the major suppliers of financial and military aid for the Baghdad regime.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Troops Repulsed in South

LD311836 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA — Scores of Iraqi troops were killed and wounded and several others captured when they attempted to pentrate Iranian positions in Hur al-Azim [name as received] region, southern Iraq on Monday, announced Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC). The fleeing Iraqi forces left a considerable number of weapons and munitions, individual equipment, as well as wireless sets, it added.

Air Force Bombs Al-'Amarah Area

LD011115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Iranian Air Force pilots heavily bombed a concentration point of enemy forces east of Al-'Amarah this afternoon.

In a communique, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that the aircraft taking part in this sortie, which was carried out at 1230 today, returned safely to their bases. They bombed all predetermined military targets and inflicted heavy losses and casualities on the Zionist enemy.

Yaqub Khan Reaffirms Position on Nuclear Issue

BK010904 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has reiterated that Pakistan is against the spread of nuclear weapons in South Asia. It is prepared to accept any equitable proposal that converts unilateral statements into a binding multilateral obligation. He was addressing in Islamabad this morning an inaugural session of a 2-day International Conference on Nuclear Nonproliferation in South Asia.

The foreign minister said Pakistan was prepared to contribute its share to any endeavor to avert such a danger in the region in order to save the region from nuclear arms race. He told eminent scientists and experts of nine countries including, four representing SAARC states, that Pakistan was committed not to develop nuclear weapons. He said Pakistan was convinced that a regional agreement on nonproliferation was the only alternative that could respond to the legitimate security concerns of all the states of South Asia and contribute to strengthening global peace and security.

Zain Noorani Proposes Alternative on Afghan Talks

BK290829 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 29 Aug 87

[Text] Pakistan last night conveyed to the UN mediator on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, an alternative proposal to the one made by the Kabul regime in regard to the next round of Geneva talks. *Associated Press of Pakistan*, quoting a UN spokesman, says there has been a formal proposal by the Kabul regime which Mr Cordovez had discussed with the [Pakistani] minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, on Thursday [27 August]. He declined to elaborate.

However, a UN official indicated that the Kabul proposal was not of a substantive nature. The agency further says that hours before his departure for home, the minister of state met the UN mediator and conveyed to him an alternative proposal. The UN mediator will discuss the proposal with Kabul regime representative, Shah Muhammad Dost, early next week.

Geneva Talks To Begin 7 Sep

BK010358 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] The new round of 3-day UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan between Pakistan and the Kabul administration begins on 7 September in Geneva. Announcing this at a news conference at the United Nations last night, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, said the new round of talks will be held at the behest of the Kabul administration. He said he has not been informed of any specifics about the real objective of this round of talks or the aims of the government calling for the talks.

Mr Cordovez said although he was surprised at the Afghan proposal, he welcomes it. He said the proposal for the new round of talks made by a party [at the talks] other than him implies that it really wants to say something. Cordovez said: I do not think we will reach a settlement of the Afghanistan issue, but I have confidence that this round of talks will definitely lead to progress toward a solution to the problem.

Karachi, Sind Remain Peaceful; 97 Arrested

BK311615 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 31 Aug 87

[Excerpts] A Sind government spokesman told newsmen in Karachi this evening that the situation throughout the province remained normal during past 24 hours. He said 97 people have been rounded up during past 24 hours in an operation which is still going on. Of these, 41 persons have been arrested under the Maintenance of Public Peace Act and 56 under other special provisions.

In Hyderabad, nine people have been rounded up under the Maintenance of Public Peace Act and seven people under other provisions.

In Karachi, the curfew was relaxed twice — from 0700-0800 in the morning and again 1700-1800 in the evening — in the curfew-bound areas of the city today. The situation in the city remained normal and there was no report of any untoward incident anywhere. [passage omitted]

The federal minister for housing and works, Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyub, today visited the Landhi and Korangi areas of Karachi and called upon the people to remain vigilant against the nefarious plots of those elements trying to sow seeds of disunity among the people and harm the security of the nation. The minister was accompanied by members of the national and provincial assemblies among others.

The federal minister for relgious affairs, Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan, presided over a joint meeting of scholars of various schools of thought in Lahore today and called on them to extend cooperation in maintaining complete unity, harmony, and brotherhood among the people during the upcoming Muharram festival. He said religious scholars should cooperate with the government in the enforcement of the true Islamic system in the country.

Curfew Relaxed in Karachi Areas

BK010232 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
200 GMT 1 Sep 87

[Text] Curfew has been relaxed for 1 hour from 0700 [0200 GMT] this morning in all the curfew bound areas of Karachi. Curfew will also be relaxed from 1700 to 1800 in the evening.

According to an announcement of the Hyderabad administration, curfew has been relaxed in the curfew bound areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad for 2 hours from 0700 this morning. Curfew will again be relaxed for 2 hours from 1600 this afternoon.